

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Writs-crackers
Writs fly thick and fast in America, land of the litigious, during the season of goodwill.

Run...
Michael Seely on Fred Winter, the top National Hunt trainer.

...rabbit
Among the Christmas post: Letters from Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin.



Class...
The rise of the middle class pressure groups.
...warfare
Sowing the seeds of civil war in Namibia.

Nilsen hurt in prison yard scuffle

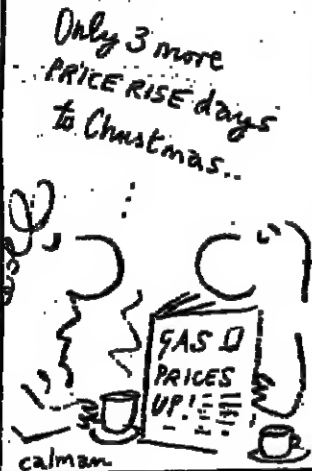
Dennis Nilsen, serving a life sentence for murder, was treated in Wormwood Scrubs hospital, London, yesterday for a four-inch cut to his left cheek after a scuffle in an exercise yard with another prisoner.

The Prison Department said it was believed a razor blade was used.

UN chief's fear of nuclear war

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, urged Mr Andropov and Mr Reagan to have the courage to negotiate and help avert a nuclear war. Nobody gave them the right to decide mankind's fate, he said.

"Mad" superpowers, page 5



Picket appeal

Leaders of the National Graphical Association have asked "sympathetic" unions to back the reimposition of a picket line at the Warrington print works of Mr Eddie Shah.

Facility withdrawn, page 2

Swedes defiant

Sweden defied US pressure to hand over American computers seized en route to Russia. As a gesture of neutrality, it decided to keep them indefinitely in Sweden.

Olivetti deal

American Telephone and Telegraph is taking a 25 per cent stake in Olivetti, the Italian data processing company, through a \$260m (£183m) share issue.

Wales fail

Wales failed to qualify for the European Championship football finals when Yugoslavia beat Bulgaria with a goal in injury time in Split yesterday.

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Letters: On Harrods bomb

from Mr D. E. Meehan, and others; gas industry, from Sir Kenneth Hutchison, FRS

Leading articles: Parliament; Policy on IRA; Poland

Books, page 9

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the biography of John Gray, the model for Dorian Gray; Antonia Byatt on Freud, Bevis Hillier on Blackwell's, Elaine Feinstein on fiction, Glynis Goulden on travellers' tales, Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd on beer.

Features, pages 8, 10

A crucial weekend in the BBC's ratings battle; Bernard Levin on royalty, smoking and ground in the US; Christmas cajoled, the professional way; a profile of Roald Dahl

Obituary, page 12

Gwen Berryman, Major-General R. A. Hutton

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Radioactive leak at Sellafield may lead to prosecution

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

British Nuclear Fuels, the company which runs the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield (formerly Windscale) in Cumbria, may be prosecuted over the abnormal discharges from its Irish Sea pipeline early last month which resulted in the formation of a radioactive slick.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has been called in after investigations of the incident have disclosed that there may have been breaches of the law requiring exposures to the public from discharges to be kept "as low as reasonably achievable" and proper records to be kept.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, announcing the DPP's involvement in the Commons yesterday, added that there may have been other breaches of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate site licence.

He told MPs, however, that it was clear from the early inquiries that there had been no breach of the authorized limits on radioactive discharges, although he added that the Government was considering imposing still lower limits.

The company and its chief officers could be prosecuted under the Radioactive Substances Act of 1960, which governs the discharge of radioactive material into the sea.

The penalties are a fine of up

to £1,000 or up to three months' imprisonment on summary conviction or, on indictment, an unspecified fine, up to five years in prison or both.

Mr Jenkin also told the Commons that after an investigation by the National Radiological Protection Board, which analysed seaweed and other flotsam collected 10 miles on either side of the pipeline, that he could not withdraw his advice to the public against unnecessary use of the beaches for the time being.

Although it remained true that any risk of contamination to the public was extremely small, radioactive flotsam was still being found, he said.

At the same time a report has been published by Ministry of Agriculture scientists on the marine, environmental and agricultural consequences of the discharge. Summarizing it, Mr Jenkin said that it showed there had not been any significant effect on fish, shellfish and other foods, and that there was no reason why people should not eat local catches or farm produce.

The protection board concluded that radioactivity in the seaweed samples it examined was well below the level which would constitute a hazard to the general population, but its main concern was that anyone handling the more active samples taken from the beach could exceed the annual dose limit for

the skin after only brief direct contact.

Mr Jenkin has referred the issue to the DPP after seeing early results of the investigations by the radiochemical inspectorate of the Department of the Environment and the Health and Safety Executive's nuclear installations inspectorate, which he promised would be published as soon as possible after they were received by ministers, "provided there is no risk of prejudicing any legal proceedings".

MPs of all parties expressed grave concern inside the House and outside about Mr Jenkin's statement. The ministers who referred to management error in the operation of the plant, that it was an accident which should not have happened.

The Greenpeace environmental group said last night that the statement had been weak and indecisive. The only credible course for the Government to restore confidence in the plant would have been to stop discharges.

Mr Jenkin is understood to be highly likely to introduce lower discharge limits, not because they have been exceeded in this incident but because they were set on the assumption that there would be an even dispersal of radioactivity, and not a clustering effect as shown by the analysis of the seaweed.

Parliament, page 4

Poseidons could leave US base at Holy Loch

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

The United States government is believed to have indicated to the British government at the highest levels that it may wish to cease using Holy Loch in Scotland as a base for its nuclear submarines, from about 1985 or 1986.

Holy Loch on the lower Clyde is the home of the United States Navy's Submarine Squadron No 14, which comprises up to 10 Poseidon submarines. The base has a staff of at least 1,800, with a similar number of dependants also living in the area.

Although the nuclear base has been a focus for hostile attention from the peace movement in Scotland, its closure would result in a significant reduction in economic activity on the lower Clyde estuary, which already faces severe problems with the threatened closure of the Scott Lithgow shipyard at Greenock, just across the estuary from Holy Loch, which could cause the loss of 8,000 jobs.

The British Ministry of Defence said yesterday that it



The Poseidon missile has lessened the strategic significance of Holy Loch.

had not heard of any American plan to withdraw, and any such reports must be speculative.

It is possible that even if the Poseidon submarines are withdrawn the Americans will wish to continue to maintain a facility at Holy Loch for other purposes.

Only recently, in the American Defense budget for 1984, the spending of \$4m to construct a new pier and warehouse at Holy Loch was approved, with construction scheduled to begin next April.

Holy Loch has been in use as a US nuclear submarine base since the 1960s. The base was particularly important in the early years because the Polaris missiles which the submarines then carried had a range of only about 1,500 nautical miles, and it was necessary for there to be a base from which the submarines could operate in waters relatively close to the Soviet Union.

This agreement has continued to apply, though with less force, since Polaris was replaced by Poseidon missiles which have a range of around 2,800 miles.

OECD forecasts UK recovery among fastest in Europe

From Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent, Paris

Britain's economy was said yesterday to be recovering faster than most countries in Europe, but with prospects of a prolonged period of growth still threatened by continuing high interest rates and huge budget deficits in the United States.

This was among the main conclusions of the latest set of authoritative half-yearly economic forecasts from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the international club of leading industrialized countries. The OECD report is likely to be seen by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other European leaders as useful ammunition in their efforts to persuade President Reagan to modify his economic policies.

The report, published in Paris, says that unemployment in Britain is likely to remain unchanged until 1985, but will continue to rise in the rest of Europe during that period. Britain can also expect economic growth of 2.25 per cent next year, 0.75 per cent lower than forecast by the Treasury, but still higher than every European country except Spain, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.

The main question, the OECD says, is not so much whether Britain's recovery will continue, but whether its recent strength can be sustained.

Its conclusion is a cautiously

Grant of £2m to cover losses at London Zoo

By Our Political Staff

Parliament is to be asked to approve a grant of up to £2m to cover this year's expected operating deficit of the Zoological Society of London.

Announcing this in a Commons Written answer yesterday, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, also said that the Government had agreed to provide financial support for up to three more years, ending on March 31, 1986.

The grant will cover the deficit, and also pay for the first stage of a plan drawn up by City consultants involving basic

operations and minimal maintenance at the Zoos Regent's Park and Whipsnade.

Last year, the number of visitors to the Regent's Park zoo was almost unchanged from 1981 at just over one million, but rising costs took their toll.

Mr Jenkin said it was clear that it would be a little time before the society could dispense with government support.

But the president and council had assured him of their best endeavours to reduce the society's operating deficit and do without government revenue support after 1986.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the GLC leader, said he would be pressing for the bar as part of the GLC's efforts to make 1984 "Anti-Racist Year".

The council also plans to name streets and buildings after anti-apartheid campaigners.

The GLC last night said it would receive an officer's report next month on how far the ban could be legally imposed.

Show business promoters thought the main victims of any ban would be middle-of-the-road entertainers in one-night shows at the Festival Hall. Many stars like Spike Milligan and Cliff Richard have accepted work in South Africa.



Child crusader: A Shia boy displaying support for Ayatollah Khomeini during a demonstration in Beirut yesterday. Lebanon severed relations with Iran last month.

Five held in hunt for Harrods bombers

By Stewart Tendler

Five Irishmen were held for questioning in London and Manchester yesterday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by detectives investigating the Provisional IRA bombing at Harrods. Police are also searching for a sixth man in the Midlands.

None of the men is thought to be directly involved in Saturday's bombing, but they may provide useful information.

Four were arrested in north and west London, partly yesterday in an operation organized by the Special Branch and carried out by the branch anti-terrorist squad officers and the Special Patrol Group.

The four were taken to Paddington Green police station, considered the most secure London station, and normally used for people held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. No details were released about the four or about the fifth man held in Manchester.

At Scotland Yard, detectives under Commander William Huckleby, head of the anti-terrorist squad, were still trying to trace the movements of the Austin 1300 used to hold the bomb. Attempts have been made to produce an artist's impression of the man who

bought the car from a part-time car dealer last month, but detectives are not yet happy that it should be issued.

Inquests on the five who died in the blast were opened yesterday by Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, and adjourned to February 15.

A number of the 95 people injured were still in hospital yesterday. Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, was in a critical but stable condition after an operation to remove a blood clot on the brain.

A fund for police victims of the bomb was set up yesterday to cope with money and gifts from well-wishers.

More than £12,000 in cash and cheques has been sent to Chelsea police station. Two rooms have been needed to store Christmas hampers, drink and flowers sent in for the 13 injured officers from Chelsea and the families of the two dead.

Donations include £1,000 from a company, nearly £200 from residents of a local block of flats and 60p from three boys aged eight.

Three Chicago policemen flew to London yesterday to honour the two police officers killed.

Shopping crowds, page 2

Leading article, letters, page 11

Cabinet likely to reject calls to ban Sinn Fein

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Cabinet is likely to take the advice of Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and reject calls for banning Provisional Sinn Fein when it discusses the issue today at its last meeting before Christmas.

Mr Prior's warnings of the dangers involved in prescribing the Provisional IRA's political wing will be heeded by ministers, and the postponement by Dr Garret FitzGerald's Government of imposing a ban in the Republic will also influence them.

However, the last document on which the Official Unionist politician, Mr Edgar Graham, was working when he was murdered, was published yesterday, calling for Provisional Sinn Fein's proscription, internment of its leaders and exclusion of its members from posts in public service.

Mr Graham had checked proofs of the paper on the night before he died, and it states: "The reality is that they are a political front for the Pro-

Dearest gas from New Year's Day

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Gas prices are to rise by up to 4.3 per cent on New Year's Day, but standing charges have been pegged. Any further increases during 1984 have been ruled out by British Gas.

The cost of heating a typical three-bedroom home by gas central heating will rise by 26p a week and British Gas estimates that cooking costs for a family of four will rise by 2.5p a week.

British Gas has also put back an increase in industrial gas contract prices from mid-January to April 1 "to continue to help British business in the fight against recession."

The tariff changes is the first for 15 months and comes after confirmation that new financial targets have been agreed between British Gas and the Department of Energy.

In contrast with the electricity supply industry, which is opposing price increases to meet new government financial targets, British Gas emphasized yesterday that the price rise decision was its own and not the Government's.

British Gas also said that the increase was in line with its policy of setting a long-term pattern of modest increases to compensate for natural gas price rises.

Letters, page 11

Continued on back page, col 2

Eight die in blast on French base in Beirut

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

At least one French soldier and seven civilians were killed and 17 other people were wounded last night in the latest attack on French troops of the multinational force in West Beirut.

In a pattern which has now become all too familiar to American and French soldiers here, a lorry was driven towards the heavily guarded and sand-bagged French base at Nasra not far from the old Beirut front line and the explosives on board were detonated a few seconds after the driver had leapt clear.

The bomb blasted down an apartment block and civil defence workers were last night burrowing into the ruins to search for civilian victims.

The lorry rammed an earth embankment - specially built to protect the French from just such an attack - at the back of the schoolhouse where the French troops are billeted. The soldiers there apparently had no time to fire at the driver before the attack. The explosion was so powerful that it blew a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep into the road.

At almost exactly the same time, another bomb was thrown at a West Beirut bar where American Marines often drink killing at least three people and wounding several others.

The Pickwick Bar, just off Hamra Street, was devastated in the explosion and the first police to reach the building found two of the bodies burning fiercely.

A US Marine guard from the American Embassy had been drinking in an adjoining room but was not hurt by the blast.

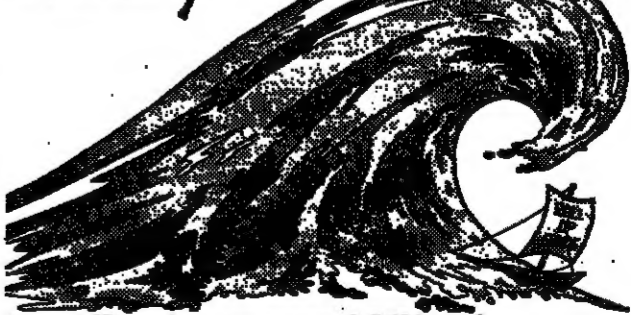
The bar's victims, who were almost certainly carried out by Shia Muslim extremists, came at the end of a day in which Israeli jets had bombed Iranian and Shia militia positions around the eastern Lebanese city of Basleik. Syrian troops fired barrages of missiles at the Israeli planes and the authorities in Damascus later claimed that seven civilians had been wounded, two of them seriously, when bombs exploded in the Sheikh Abdullah barracks south-east of Basleik where Iranian revolutionary guards are living.

The barracks was captured from Lebanese soldiers earlier this year and was the target of a French air raid last month which failed to damage either the barracks or the buildings inside. The Israelis said that the Iranian position - the Israelis called it a terrorist base - had housed the men who planned both attacks on Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and on the multinational troops in Beirut.

The attacks in Beirut last night may thus have been intended as retaliation for the

Continued on back page, col 2

Abbey National have a haven for roll-up money



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New taxation laws seem certain to make offshore "roll-up" funds a lot less attractive from January 1st. Now's the time to consider the alternatives. Where else can you enjoy a high return with ready access to your money? If you are a taxpayer, you will have to look a long way to beat the current rate offered by Abbey National's Seven Day Account.

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Threatened council's chief accuses Whitehall of distorting budget evidence

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government
Correspondent

Mr John Gunnell, leader of West Yorkshire County Council, yesterday accused the Government of "deliberate falsification of evidence" in its efforts to abolish all English metropolitan county councils, including his own.

Mr Gunnell came to London armed with the first of two reports prepared by the Coopers & Lybrand management consultancy, which claimed that some of the evidence put forward by the Government in the autumn was misleading.

Ministers then published a White Paper called *Sireamling the Cities* proposing the abolition of the English metropolitan county councils and the Greater London Council in 1986. Coopers & Lybrand were commissioned to make an independent study of the plans by the county authorities designated for abolition. They are West and South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, Merseyside and Tyne and Wear.

The consultants claimed that ministers had overestimated the amount of "overspend" by metropolitan councils compared with the performance of other English county councils. That was because they had underestimated differences in spending patterns.

Most county councils devoted half of their budgets to education, where inflation had been restrained by falling numbers of children. Only about an eighth of their budgets

Increase in council spending 1979-83 (%)			
Metropolitan counties		All other councils	
Government figures	Coopers & Lybrand	Government figures	Coopers & Lybrand
111	86	80	78

went on police and fire services, where inflation had been more severe because of government demands for expansion and where many costs were controlled by the Home Office and not by councillors.

But the metropolitan councils threatened with abolition used more than a third of their budgets on police and fire services. For them, therefore, much more expense was governed by the Government instead of by councillors. The consultants also said that the White Paper exaggerated the difference in increases in rate demands between metropolitan councils and English councils in general.

"I believe that the White Paper is deliberately deceptive and that the Government has knowingly ignored the statistics," Mr Gunnell said. "We have over 40 per cent of our expenditure in Home Office services. Police and fire pay settlements are higher than in the rest of the public sector."

Mr Gunnell said that the first part of the consultants' study, published yesterday, had cost £40,000. The second part, about the costs of abolition, would appear early next year and would cost £30,000 for each of the six threatened councils.

● The London Borough of Hackney was given leave in the High Court yesterday to seek a ruling that the target spending figure given to councillors by the Government last week was unlawful because it was too low to enable them to do their statutory duties.

Hackney which claims to be the poorest local authority area in the country, rejects government claims that high-spending councils can make further savings without cutting essential services.

More attacks on rate-capping Bill

The National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) said yesterday that the Government's plan to impose rate ceilings on high-spending local councils could cost 300,000 jobs.

The Trades Union Congress expressed "total opposition" to proposals in the Government's rates bill to impose their ceilings by "capping" rates.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said that it wanted to start a joint campaign against the Bill with associations of local councils and curb their freedom to provide the services they felt fitted local needs, he said.

Alan Brooke



Oxford test of health staff freeze

From Nicholas Timmins,
Social Services Correspondent,
Oxford

Plans for a radical shift in health care from hospitals to the community over the next decade are to be put to Oxford Regional Health Authority next month.

One result of the changes will be a significant increase in staff, up to more than 4,000, with an increase of 36 per cent to 4,330 in the number involved in community services.

With the Government attempting to freeze National Health Service manpower at about its present level, the proposals will provide a key test of whether health ministers are prepared to see manpower rise to provide the type of community based service that the Department of Health is advocating.

The plans envisage a doubling of day care treatment in the region to 25 per cent of all acute cases, with shorter stays in hospital for maternity patients, in a package that will cut about £11m from projected spending on acute services by 1994.

Large mental illness and mental handicap hospitals in the region, including Fair Mile, St Crispin, St John's, Borocourt and Littlemore hospitals, would be closed, or reduced in size, being replaced by community-based units and more care at home, both for those patients and the elderly.

Spending on those groups would rise by about £19m, which is £8m more than if the services continued in their present pattern.

A large investment would be put into health education in an attempt to cut treatment for cancer and heart disease by 25 per cent over the 10 years, by persuading people to stop smoking, and eat a healthier diet.

The proposals would mean an increase of about 13 per cent in staff at a time when the region's population is expected to rise by about 11 per cent.

With almost 30 per cent of the region's buildings classed as being in a poor state of repair, the strategic plan envisages disposing of outdated ones, including remote large institutions. Land sales should raise £22m in the next decade.

Dr Ronnie Pollock, the Oxford region's specialist in community medicine, said the region believed it could achieve the change without local authority services having to spend more. "This is not an attempt to pass the responsibility to local authorities."

The plans were criticized by the "Who Cares" campaign, set up by ten trade unions in the region.

Crowds 'thinned' by Harrods bomb

By Robin Young

Despite the Home Secretary's declaration that not to go shopping in the West End of London this Christmas was the best way to avoid a terrorist attack, there was little doubt among the general public in Oxford Street, Regent Street and Knightsbridge yesterday that the last-minute shopping crowds had been deterred by Saturday's bomb explosion at Harrods.

Regular shoppers, bus conductors, taxi drivers and staff at Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Circus Underground stations were all agreed that the crowds were appreciably thinner than in previous years. Store managers, however, insisted that the impression was a false one, not borne out by their trading figures.

Harrods itself was clearly busier than it had been on Monday, when the comparatively few shoppers were congratulating each other on having come to "the safest place in London".

Staff admitted, though, that the shop was considerably quieter than would have been expected in the normal pre-Christmas rush. "Usually you cannot move in here at this time of year," one senior staff member said. "At least it is a bit more comfortable for the faithful who have come." The management declined to quote their takings.

Selfridge's, however, claimed to be "busier than last week and much busier than last year".

Marks & Spencers, while allowing that the West End did

seem quieter, insisted they had no figures to bear it out. "For us it has simply been a very good Christmas, especially in the gift and speciality food lines."

For Liberty in Regent Street it was claimed that figures were showing "a most satisfactory increase" on the same period last year. "We do not feel that our customers have been deterred, and we are now preparing our biggest ever post-Christmas sale."

This last will be good news for my taxi driver who said: "I decided not to go to the shops before Christmas this year, but to give my family promissory notes for the winter sales. I do not call that a victory for good sense and sound economy."

● The Arts Council yesterday withdrew a £1.750 guarantee for a concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, after it discovered that posters for the event contained references to the IRA (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

Sir William Rees-Mogg, the Arts Council chairman, said: "The concert as originally planned appeared to consist of unexceptionable twentieth-century music. However, the main piece in the concert was described as Agrippa with the clear implication that purpose is to make political propaganda in favour of the IRA. This is unacceptable."

The guarantee was given to a London promoter, Matchless Music for a concert by the Eislir Collective on January 19. The poster produced by Matchless Music for the event showed a picture of a woman backed by the slogan "IRA - Long Kesh".

The central part of the concert was to have been an adaptation of Brecht's *The Mother* by John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy, the husband and wife writers who live in Ireland and have espoused republican causes in the past.

Matchless Music refused to comment.

● Stocks of blood at the South London Transfusion Centre at Tooting, almost exhausted by demand after the Harrods bombing, were renewed yesterday by transfers of 200 pints each from centres in Southampton and Bristol and the Army's blood supply depot at Aldershot.

Leading article and letters, page 11

Mr Leon Brittan: Advice unheeded

Surgeons set for more heart-lung transplants

By Thomson Prentice
Medical Reporter

Heart and lung transplants will continue to be carried out in Britain despite the death of Mr Lars Ljungberg, the first heart-lung patient in this country. The next patient is likely to be a seriously ill woman who has been assessed as suitable for the operation.

Mr Ljungberg, aged 32, died in Harefield Hospital, west London, on Tuesday night, 14 days after the operation. Death was due to the failure of his kidneys and other organs, the hospital said.

The surgical team was headed by Mr Magdi Yacoub, who has performed 80 heart transplants, the most recent being six days ago. Mr Yacoub was said yesterday to be "very disappointed, but determined to carry on."

The operation on Mr Ljungberg was considered to be a success. "There was nothing wrong with the technique or the skills of the surgeons," the hospital said. "There was no sign of the new heart and lungs being rejected. Mr Ljungberg was a very, very ill man before the operation. If he had been a little stronger, he might have survived."

At least three patients have been assessed as suitable for heart-lung transplants at Harefield, including the woman who is likely to be the next to undergo the operation. There have been 22 such operations around the world, most of them in the United States and 13 of the patients survive. Of 140 heart transplants in Britain, 83 of the patients are still alive.

One first heart transplant patient, Mr Derek Marney, died, but that did not deter us from going on," the hospital said.

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WPC wins sex bias case against police but is censured at tribunal

The police woman at the centre of a sex discrimination dispute won her case yesterday, but was severely censured by the tribunal chairman.

Women Police Constable Wendy de Launay, the traffic officer who was banned from working with married male colleagues last February, won her claim for sexual discrimination and victimisation at the London South Industrial Tribunal.

But Mr Geoffrey Higgs, the chairman, declined to make an award for injured feelings and criticized WPC de Launay for not first taking her grievance through the police complaint procedure.

Mr Higgs said that the decision to ban WPC de Launay, aged 25, from her "posted partnership" with Police Constable Trevor Atfield, an experienced traffic officer aged 31, was sexual discrimination, and her return last October to foot patrol in Fulham, west London, was victimisation.

He added that her transfer was a direct result of her complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission. "She was subjected to sexual discrimination and has made out her case on all counts," Mr Higgs said.

Mr Higgs then made a statement, saying the case was of considerable public interest. "The parties themselves are not beyond criticism in the way they have handled the situation," Mr Higgs said.

Miss de Launay is a member of a disciplined police force and she saw the problem of a relationship with PC Atfield and she should have understood that it was a matter of genuine concern to Chief Superintendent Brian Wallace regarding discipline at the Hampton, Middlesex, garage.

Mr Higgs said that WPC de Launay should have referred the problem to the commander of the police of West division or, if necessary, other senior officers under the orders and regulations.

Miss de Launay also instituted the proceedings without giving prior notice to Chief Supt Wallace," he said.

"The fact that her conduct may be criticized is not a justification for Chief Supt Wallace to discriminate against her in the way he did, except that he was faced with a general problem."

"We find that he failed to consider the problem closely and seemed to have over-reacted."

Mr Higgs said that the tribunal sympathized with WPC de Launay for the distress she had suffered from the sexual discrimination but it was not appropriate to make a compensatory award.

He adjourned the hearing to give both parties time to "cool off" and the Commissioner time to consider returning WPC de Launay to the traffic division.

Mr Higgs added: "It might be a good thing if the dust was allowed to settle before we decide on what recommendation should be made."

After the hearing WPC de Launay said that she was extremely pleased. "I feel that the hearing was fair and all that I wanted to come out."

She added: "I love the police force, but in particular the traffic police. I would like to go to any garage the Commissioner may send me to but obviously I would like to remain in the area where I worked."

WPC de Launay praised the support from PC Atfield, who is now on foot patrol in All Saints Road, in Notting Hill, west London.

PC Atfield said that he, too, was pleased with the result. "It has come out that if you are returned to foot patrol it is considered to be demotion and that is one of the points I wanted to prove."

The Metropolitan Police would make no official comment on the tribunal's findings yesterday.

Chief Insp Brian Corbett, who first told Mr Wallace of a possible relationship between WPC de Launay and PC Atfield, said he was not a stranger to controversy at industrial tribunal hearings.

Three years ago he was involved in the hearing of Miss Maggie Coles, an LBC radio traffic announcer, who claimed, as one of several examples of alleged police harassment, that he had shouted a lewd remark at her while she was on the air. He denied this.

Miss Coles won her claim for unfair dismissal.



Duty calls: WPC Wendy de Launay, whose claim of sexual discrimination was accepted by a London tribunal yesterday.

Fire risk claim over 'silly string' aerosol

By David Nicholson-Lord

Many homes could face a serious fire risk at Christmas from aerosol cans of "silly string", a supposedly innocuous solvent-based streamer designed to make parties go with a swing. Tests on one brand indicated that, contrary to the producer's claims, it remained flammable long after being sprayed.

Hundreds of thousands of cans are sold. Concern arose after a London businessman contacted *The Times* with details of tests on one brand, Swan Fun String, produced by Porth Textiles of South Wales.

Mr Ronald Collins, managing director of a telecommunications company and a member of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors, noticed that the string turned brown and shrivelled when Christmas tree lights were switched on near it. When he applied a lighted cigarette to it, it burst into flames and dropped hot plastic on to his hand.

Mr Collins, who has worked in fire testing, said: "People spray this stuff on to hair and clothes as well as Christmas trees. But there is no warning on the can that it is highly inflammable."

Porth Textiles, Britain's biggest producer of decorations and plastic Christmas trees, was put into the hands of the receiver earlier this month with £8m debts. The company said yesterday that the can carried the obligatory warning against spraying near a naked flame. Mr Gareth Evans, its quality control manager, said that string contained resins and solvents and might remain flammable for up to two hours while the solvent remained wet. After that it would become crumbly and non-flammable. There had been "no reports whatsoever" of fires involving silly string.

Mr Collins, however, has found that it was possible to set light to the string two days after it was sprayed.

Householders were also warned yesterday about dangerously high lead and chromium levels in paint on toys imported from Hongkong. Trading standards officers in Merseyside found up to 43 times the maximum safe lead levels on toy cars which bear the name "Shekme".

Special precautions against extra fire risks at Christmas were called for yesterday. The Home Office advises householders to keep all decorations well clear of fires and lights, check plugs and wiring and provide plenty of ashtrays.

'Christmas in custody' drink-drive warning

By Michael Horsnell

The chairman of Grays magistrates in Essex, who have jailed 11 motorists for drinking and driving in the past week, gave a warning yesterday that offenders could spend Christmas in custody.

Mr Charles Noad, aged 63, a retired businessman, said: "We can not let false sentimentality stand in our way, despite the approach of Christmas. The fact that you are a first offender does not give you a licence to drink and drive and expect the courts to be lenient."

"So far as discrepancies are concerned, courts have to look at the gravity of the offence and the alcohol reading. But it would be helpful if there were greater consistency throughout the country."

"Disqualification and fining were not having the required effect. We would like to stop it being respectable to drink and drive. It is a most anti-social activity which causes death and serious injury."

Earlier yesterday, David Jones, aged 21, was sentenced to two days in a police cell, fined £300 and banned from driving for 18 months by the presiding magistrate, Mr George Walsham.

Jones, an electrician, from South Ockendon, Essex, crashed through a garden hedge after a Guy Fawkes party. An intoximeter showed that he had 63 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath - the legal limit is 35 micrograms.

His mother, Mrs Joyce Jones, aged 47, said afterwards: "I think it is disgusting. Admittedly he was over the limit, but not all that much. The fine would have been quite enough."

Earlier, Mr Walsham fined Mark Corthine, aged 22, a test driver for Ford, £250 for driving with 54 micrograms of alcohol. Corthine, from Stanford le Hope, Essex, was also disqualified from driving for 15 months.

He said afterwards: "The crack-down is diabolical. The police should tell people before they introduce these new measures."

He said that the wide variation in sentencing by courts tempted more people to drink and drive. "It is important that the drivers know they will be imprisoned."

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, called yesterday for the introduction of mandatory prison sentences for drink-drive offences (the Press Association reports).

Costs disputed in shoplifting case

A magistrate refused costs to Tesco, the supermarket chain, yesterday when it dropped a charge against a widow, aged 73 - but he changed his decision after prosecution protests.

Mrs Hilma Cleavley, of Barnet Road, Bethnal Green, had been accused at Thames Magistrates' Court of stealing groceries worth £2.74.

Mr Paul Jones, prosecuting, said Tesco would drop the charge if Mrs Cleavley agreed to be bound over. Mrs Cleavley agreed and was bound over for one year.

The magistrate, Sir Bryan Roberts, refused costs over a case involving £2.74.

Mrs Cleavley said she had intended pleading not guilty and electing trial but accepted the binding order to avoid further pressure.

Mr Jones re-applied for costs, accusing Sir Bryan of issuing a "chivalry" charter and punishing Tesco for its compassion.

He argued that costs could be refused only if the prosecution had misconducted itself. He said the store detective saw Mrs Cleavley place goods from the shelves in her bag without paying.

The cost of 2 damaged young lives

Two young men who are severely handicapped after being injured in road accidents were yesterday awarded damages in two separate cases in the High Court.

Mr John Fitzgerald, aged 20, of Canterbury Road, Morden, Surrey, was awarded £318,168 for injuries he received when a car in which he was a passenger crashed in October, 1980.

Patrick Mahoney, aged 17, of Clark Street, Whitechapel, east London, was awarded £204,930 after he was knocked down by a crash on a pelican crossing in August, 1976.

Mr Fitzgerald was 17 when he suffered irreversible brain damage which impaired his memory and concentration. He will never be able to go back to his job as an apprentice carpenter or enjoy table tennis and judo, at which he excelled.

Mr Justice Park, who made the award, said that before the accident Mr Fitzgerald had been "lively, vivacious and enterprising, had a pleasant personality and was a smashing kid with a lovely sense of humour."

Now he was only able to do simple tasks and relied on the devotion of his father, Mr Frederick Fitzgerald, aged 64, and in most respects without him. When his father was no longer capable of caring for him he would need a full-time nurse, the judge said.

The damages are to be paid by the driver of the car in which Mr Fitzgerald was a rear seat passenger when it skidded, demolished a road sign and lamp post and then overturned in London Road, Morden. The driver, Mr Kevin White, of Chester Gardens, Morden, admitted liability.

Patrick Mahoney was 10 years old and on his way to swimming baths near his home when a coach struck him as he walked across the pelican crossing.

Head injuries initially left him totally paralysed but he has since regained some movement in his right leg and left arm.

Mr Justice Skinner, who made the award, said that Patrick was 25 per cent to blame because he failed to look properly.

The damages are to be paid by the owners of the coach, Frank Harris Coaches, of Grays, Essex, who admitted liability.

Costs inquiry urged for universities

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A Rayner-style inquiry into the efficiency of the universities has been proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at the direct prodding of the Prime Minister, who is known to be dubious about their parsimony.

The proposal, to be discussed further next month by civil servants, the University Grants Committee and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), is that a firm of outside consultants, such as Peak, Marwick and Mitchell, or Arthur Anderson, would look at the management of a number of universities.

Any such inquiry should be conducted under the aegis of the universities, but this may not meet with government approval. Although the universities, which sat up £1,400m of public funds annually, are not changing an inquiry, they do feel they have examined themselves rigorously in the past few years and have cut back as much as they can.

The idea at present is that the inquiry would look at whether the universities provide value for money, but it is not thought likely that staff performance or quality of research would be examined. Items such as estate management and building maintenance would be looked at, as would staff-student ratios.

There are known to be wide disparities in these ratios between institutions in the same subject. Mrs Margaret Thatcher is said to view the universities with some disapproval and to feel that they teach subjects which are not academically rigorous.

She is also understood to be impatient with the universities' pleas for money. There is no certainty, however, that an exercise of the kind Lord Rayner conducted in the Civil Service would produce recommendations for savings. It might say that aspects of the university system were seriously underfunded.

The idea for the review, which was raised at last week's private meeting between Sir Keith and the CVCP, will probably also encompass the way in which resources are allocated by the universities. The decision-making mechanisms of institutions will also come under scrutiny.

Mr Brian Taylor, secretary to the CVCP, said they were prepared for anyone to look at their efficiency, because they were efficient.

"But we want to find a way in which this can be done under the aegis of the universities", he said.

An efficiency survey of the universities would differ from previous Rayner-style inquiries in that it is felt it could not be carried out by civil servants. In order to carry authority with all concerned it would need to be conducted by a respected group of specialists from outside government.

Duke seeks return of heirlooms

The Duke of Manchester yesterday won the first round of his High Court battle with his elderly stepmother for the return of missing family heirlooms. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Megarry, ordered an inquiry to find out what heirlooms are left and where they are.

The missing heirlooms, said to be worth millions of pounds, include paintings by Holbein and Van Dyke, and the Duke, aged 54, claims them as his right under a family trust, set up in 1923 by his grandfather.

But the Dowager Duchess of Manchester, now in her seventies, and living in Eaton Square, Belgravia, claims that any possessions she has were inherited when the tenth Duke died, aged 75, in 1977.

The matter was adjourned to the new year for further argument. The case has already lasted 11 days. The eleventh Duke, who lives in Kenya, was not in court.

Police chief guilty of 'kerb-crawling'

The head of Lincolnshire fraud squad was bound over to be of good behaviour for 12 months yesterday after being convicted of "kerb-crawling" in Nottingham's red light district.

Det Chief Insp Robert Warner, aged 49, who had denied the offence at Nottingham Magistrates' Court, agreed to be bound over with a surety of £100.

Mr David Blundell, for the prosecution, said that Warner was cautioned after approaching Jane Walker, who was in plainclothes and on vice squad duty in Hyson Green last September.

Warner, a father of three, from Welton, near Lincoln, told the court that he had realized immediately that WPC Walker, aged 30, was a policewoman.

Mr Blundell said that Warner approached her and asked her how much it would be for "straight sex".

But Warner said that he thought that WPC Walker had been attacked by a man in Hardy Street and had asked if he could help her.

"I was not kerb crawling in the general sense. I was going down the street slowly stopping and starting."

He said that he had lost his way in Nottingham while travelling from Lincoln to Ilkeston. He told the court: "I

was not even aware that you had a red light district in Nottingham."

"I did not know that Hardy Street formed a part of that red light district. It was not signposted as a red-light district; these places never are."

Warner refused to name the man he said he was on his way to visit in Ilkeston.

Mr Dick Fletcher, for the defence, said that Warner was a man of integrity and honesty who had been awarded the police long service and good conduct medal.

Warner will face an internal police disciplinary procedure, and could be demoted or asked to resign.

The head of the Lincolnshire CID, Detective Chief Superintendent Colin Bailey, told the court that Warner was an excellent detective who could lose a pension worth tens of thousands of pounds because of his court appearance.

He said that Warner had been 28 years in the force and had 22 months to go before becoming eligible for retirement.

The civil case was brought by police under the Justices of the Peace Act, 1936.

It followed a clampdown on kerb crawling in Hyson Green during which dozens of motorists were cautioned and brought before the courts.

Detectives praised for not shooting gunman

Flying Squad detectives were praised by a judge yesterday for their restraint in not firing back at a "mad criminal" who was firing a sawn-off shotgun at them.

Judge Brian Gibbons told the Central Criminal Court that if they had done so people in the crowded Chapel Market, Islington, north London, could have been killed. He congratulated Det Sergeant Kelly, aged 30, for his courage in disarming him.

James Daly, aged 29, of Mora Street, Islington, suspected of having IRA links, was jailed for 17 years.

He was convicted of conspiring to rob security guards in Chapel Market and shooting Det Kelly in the face.

Daly, wanted for questioning in connection with a £100,000 robbery in Dublin in October, 1980, much of it a tribute to an actress who for millions made the character a real person.

Mr Tony Shryane, who produced more than 7,000 episodes of *The Archers* from its start in 1951, said: "She made the character of Doris Archer a national figure, loved and respected by millions. She was a courageous woman who, though often in considerable pain from arthritis, never let it interfere with her work."

In 1981 MBE Berryman was made an MBE.

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Det Sergeant Kelly: Disarmed "mad criminal".

Woodlands threatened

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's remaining ancient woodlands are being destroyed at a rate unprecedented in peacetime, a report published today claims.

In some counties up to 60 per cent of the semi-natural woodland cover has been removed since the war, a high proportion of that in the past 15 years.

The report is published by the British Association of Nature Conservationists and its author, Mr Richard Grove, says there is a developing crisis in the relationship between forestry and nature conservation.

Decisions made in the near future will determine the form of the British countryside for a long time to come.

The Future for Forestry (BANC, c/o Rectory Farm, Stanton St John, Oxford, E3).

Rhododendrons, for which Snowdonia is famous, are choking new growth in woods and forests. The Snowdonia national park authority is sending letters to youth hostels and tourist centers explaining why it is necessary to keep the spread in check.

Punks chop logs for old people

Out-of-work "punks" in Guildford, Surrey, have got together with local police to help the town's elderly for Christmas by chopping and distributing logs.

Police constable Daniel Glover was impressed by his efforts. "They are just ordinary people who express themselves by their appearance, and this example proves to others that they are capable of being very constructive," he said.

Park keeper saves child from sex attack 'menace'

A man who has spent 28 years in jail for offences against boys was sentenced to another six years' imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The woman park keeper who rescued his latest victim was praised for her "courage and quick thinking".

Mr Lumbech, aged 48, whose longest period of freedom since he was first jailed has been nine months, was a menace to boys, Judge Nina Lowry said.

Lumbech was convicted of child stealing, and attempted gross indecency after an attack on a boy aged nine in Acton, west London. The child, Lumbech's 26th young victim, was snatched from the street as he went to a fish shop. Lumbech dragged him across a park and into a lavatory.

But before any sex assault could take place, the boy's cries were heard by Mrs Anne Ling, the park warden, who ran to his rescue. Mrs Ling, aged 48, comforted the weeping boy when Lumbech fled. She remembered everything she could about the assailant and was able to pick him out later at an identification parade.

Judge Lowry said it was "merciful" that Mrs Ling came on the scene and acted as she did.



Mrs Ling: praised in court.

Doris Archer actress dies, aged 77

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

Gwen Berryman, the actress who created one of radio's best-loved characters, the Ambridge matron Doris Archer, has died, aged 77, in a Torquay hospital.

Miss Berryman played the role for 29 years until ill health forced her to retire in 1980. The programme attracted a huge audience when Doris Archer died in an armchair in October, 1980, much of it a tribute to an actress who for millions made the character a real person.

Mr Tony Shryane, who produced more than 7,000 episodes of *The Archers* from its start in 1951, said: "She made the character of Doris Archer a national figure, loved and respected by millions. She was a courageous woman who, though often in considerable pain from arthritis, never let it interfere with her work."

In 1981 MBE Berryman was made an MBE.

Obituary, page 12

Guided buses recall age of the tram

By Michael Bailly Transport Editor

Birmingham hopes to launch a new age of the tram with a "guided bus" due to start in the spring.

Instead of having steel wheels on rails, the otherwise conventional double-deck bus will run along a concrete track. Vertical parapets on either side will steer the bus by means of small guidewheels extending from the front axle.

A half-mile experimental track is being constructed along a disused tramway on the central reservation of a dual carriageway road in an inner suburb, and if successful it will be extended elsewhere in the city.

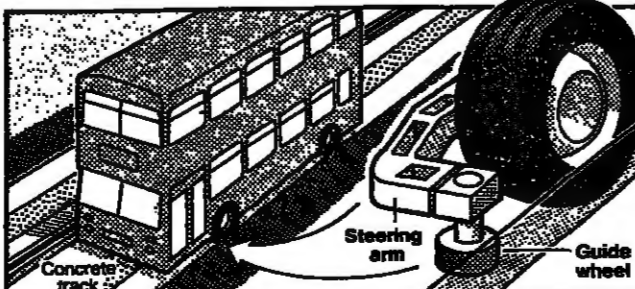
The idea is to slice through urban congestion at far lower cost than a tram or light railway. The city's earlier tramway system, abolished in the 1950s, was one of the finest in the world.

At either end of the guideway, buses will simply drive on and off, continuing through the city in the normal way. A special dispensation is needed from the Department of Transport for the guideways projecting three inches.

A similar system, developed by Daimler-Benz in Germany, is operating in Essen and is being installed in Adelaide, Australia. Birmingham chose to develop its own system with the help of Metro-Cammell Wayman and Guest, Keen, Nettlefold. Total initial cost is £500,000.

It has four advantages, according to Mr Bob Crawford, director of planning and engineering at the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

Buses can be used flexibly on or off guideways, unlike trams.



Monopoly study into franking machine firms

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Two companies dominating the postal franking machine market, Pitney Bowes, of which Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, is a director, and Roneo Alcatel, are to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission following many complaints to the Office of Fair Trading.

The investigation will also include Hasler (Great Britain), a subsidiary of a Swiss company, but Pitney Bowes and Roneo Alcatel, which are both foreign-owned, together account for 95 per cent of franking machines in use in many companies to imprint postage values on envelopes to avoid the use of postage stamps.

Pitney Bowes is the British subsidiary of Pitney Bowes Incorporated in the United States and Roneo Alcatel is part of France's Generale d'Electricite.

Radioactive leak case referred to DPP

POLLUTION

The series of abnormal discharges of radioactive matter from the Sellafield plant of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd in Cumbria last month has been brought to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions with whom the Department of the Environment and the Health and Safety Executive are cooperating.

Announcing this in a Commons statement, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said the most important thing was to prevent the repetition of such an incident and both the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the DoE have notified BNFL of the further measures they wished the company to take.

Mr Jenkin added the people should continue to avoid the beach in the vicinity of the discharges for the time being.

He said: During the six days from November 11 to November 16 a series of abnormal discharges were made from the Sellafield plant of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd through the pipeline to the sea. The discharges followed the washing out of the reprocessing plant in the course of annual maintenance.

Following a management error in the operation of that plant, radioactive liquids including solvent and particulate matter of higher than normal activity were transferred to a sea tank. Attempts were made to transfer the more active material to another storage tank. This was only partially successful and a significant quantity of the radioactivity was discharged to the sea.

The Radiochemical Inspectorate of my department and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive have been carrying out detailed investigations into the causes of the incident. Neither I nor the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Peter Walker) have yet received final reports.

While it seems clear that there has been no breach of the authorised quarterly numerical limits on the discharge of radioactivity there may well have been breaches of other conditions namely those requiring exposure from discharges to be kept. It is also possible that there were some breaches of other conditions of the NII site licence.

For these reasons the matter has been brought to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions with whom my department and the Health and Safety Executive are cooperating.

The most important thing is to prevent any repetition of such an incident. Both NII and my department have notified BNFL of the further measures they wish the company to take. The measures so far taken by BNFL include a ban on the discharge of free solvent and an automatic cut-off system governing the discharge of liquid from the sea tanks. Other measures are in hand.

Extensive and continuing monitoring of the environment has confirmed that the risk to the public was, and remains, extremely small. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr Michael Jopling) is today answering a written question announcing the publication of a report on the

marine environmental and agricultural consequences of the discharge. This shows that there has not been any significant effect on fish, shellfish or other foods. There is therefore no reason why people should not eat local catches or farm produce.

Also published today is a report by the National Radiological Protection Board, prepared for my department, on the distribution and analysis of samples of seaweed and other flora collected from the beach ten miles either side of the pipeline.

One conclusion of the report, confirmed by separate analysis carried out by HSE, is that the radioactivity in the samples was well below the level that would constitute any hazard to the general population in the area. The NRPB's main concern, however, is that anyone handling the more active samples taken from the beach could exceed the annual dose limit for the skin after only comparatively brief direct contact.

It was for that reason that, on November 30, my department advised the public to avoid unnecessary use of the beaches on this stretch of coast for the time being. Radioactive flotsam is still occasionally being found, so that it is not yet possible to withdraw that advice.

It remains true that any risk of contamination to the public is extremely small. People should none the less continue to avoid unnecessary use of the beaches between St Bees and Eskmeals and should not handle objects washed up by the sea. Monitoring will continue and my department will keep the public fully informed.

This is an interim report which I have thought it right to make to the House before the Christmas recess. The Government intends that the report, both from the DOE's Radiochemical Inspectorate and from the Nuclear Installations

Inspectorate should be published as soon as possible after they are received by ministers, provided there is no risk of prejudicing any legal proceedings. When we have the final reports I will make a further statement.

Dr John Cunningham, Chief Opposition spokesman on the environment (Copeland, Lab), welcomed the decision to make what he rightly says can only be an interim statement. I agree with him that it is of the utmost importance that the final report of the NII and the Radio Chemical Inspectorate

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are published for the benefit of the House and the country and, not least, for the benefit of my own constituents in West Cumbria.

Is he aware of the very real anger as well as concern which is felt by the community in West Cumbria and indeed people much further afield about this incident which they widely regard as something which should simply not have happened.

What has occurred calls into question the competence of the management at the plant. Does that not in addition mean that public acceptance of the operations of the nuclear industry has been unnecessarily damaged?

Why is it that this eventuality—the discharging of material to the sea—was not recognized when the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate carried out its exhaustive examination of the Magnox facilities and the plant in 1980 and when they reported to the Secretary of State in 1981?

Is the Secretary of State, in talking about the incident, able to tell us whether it is that the company which will be prosecuted or individuals?

Since it is now clear from published information that BNFL have systematically reduced their discharges to the marine environment over a period of years, they are well capable of operating satisfactorily within much lower discharge limits.

Would not that greater control of discharges bring pressure to bear on the management to prevent this kind of occurrence happening again?

Hitherto, the industry has worked on the principle of discharges being as low as reasonably achievable. Is it not now clear from the public reaction and concern that we should move as quickly as possible to a situation where discharges are as low as possible?

Does not that mean that discharges of plutonium, caesium and other actinides should be totally eliminated as soon as possible?

Mr Jenkin: We would of course entirely agree that it is an incident which should not have happened and the most important thing is to make sure it should never happen again.

I also agree it is of the utmost importance that the public, both locally and nationally, should be fully confident in the management of these nuclear plants and that this is of the highest importance for the continuance of the country's nuclear programme.

Regarding the competence of management, it would be better if I did not pronounce on that. We have not had the final report and the matter may well be the subject of proceedings in the courts.

He asked whether it would be the companies or individuals who would be prosecuted. That must be a matter for the DPP.

He asked me about the 1980 Nuclear Inspectorate's report on the Magnox plant. It would be wiser to wait for the publication of the final report. On that I can only say some reassurance. Although the House would agree, I am sure, that we should avoid prejudice of legal proceedings and that should be an over-riding consideration, the latest advice I have had has shown that that need not necessarily

example, police officers, wardens, caretakers, or dwellings let on a short-term basis prior to redevelopment.

County councils were not included in the 1980 Housing Act because of the supposed specialized nature of the letting where a right to buy would clearly not be appropriate. However, the Government had become increasingly concerned about the position of county council tenants whose homes were no longer required by their landlords for operational purposes. There were a significant number of these.

The amendments would provide for the common treatment of county council tenants. It would bring county council tenants within the security of tenure and right to buy provisions of the 1980 Act, subject to most important safeguards on the operational requirements of the county councils.

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Warren: Increased danger from sea spray

prevent the early publication of the two reports.

On the question of lower discharge limits, from the first statement I made on the subject it is indeed our intention to work for substantially lower authorizations. I repeat now that if the circumstances seem appropriate we are certainly open to consider still further lower authorizations so this plant complies and has to comply with the best world standards for the discharge of radioactivity.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings and Rye, C): Would he ask the agencies concerned to look in particular at the apparent magnification effect of the order of 10 to 20 times greater than current in the sea which results as radioactivity coming ashore from sea spray? Mr Jenkin: He will have seen a report in *The Guardian* commenting on research at Harwell which is being financed by my department. We have not had the full results of that yet but if this is a serious anxiety we shall take such steps as are open to us.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): If the Director of Public Prosecutions does recommend prosecution it will be a just return for BNFL for having pursued the case of the incident in Harwell. The £50,000 fine on them being fined £50,000 which they could ill-afford.

In my constituency great damage has been done to the tourist and fishing industries and would be considered the fullest compensation for all those who have lost?

The population of West Cumberland will only be satisfied when the objective of zero discharge of radioactive materials is fully realised except in the case of a major accident on Government.

We believe in West Cumberland if we are to retain this plant then Government and Parliament must ensure that adequate financial resources are made available to us so as to avoid all possible risks.

Mr Jenkin: The £50,000 fine on the case of the incident in Harwell was a matter between them and the courts. I remind him that the judge expressly said he intended to leave them with the ability to protest peacefully. It was a question of trying to stop them interfering with the pipeline. What was really wanted was that interference would cease.

Compensation is a matter which must await publication of the reports so we can see whether there is any case for that.

As for zero discharge, I would not add anything to what I have already said about authorization. The principle is as low as reasonably achievable. If properly enforced, and that is perhaps one of the approaches where a prosecution might lie, that produces an extremely low level of discharge indeed.

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Effect of tour on Commonwealth

SPORT

The proposed English Rugby Union tour of South Africa would have damaging repercussions throughout the Commonwealth. Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister of Sport, said during question time exchanges in the Commons. Anyone who underestimated the impact on Commonwealth sport seriously underestimated the current situation, he added.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) asked him what recent discussions had taken place with the President of the English Rugby Union regarding the proposed tour to South Africa.

Mr Macfarlane: My officials and I have had numerous discussions with representatives of the Rugby Football Union. The President is well aware of the Government's views on the proposed tour.

Mr Carlisle: While appreciating his obligation under the Glenageary agreement to sport sporting contact with South Africa and his own anxiety to promote sporting contacts with the Commonwealth, will he confirm that at the end of the day it will be the President of the English Rugby Union and his colleagues to decide whether they tour South Africa and not he?

Will he promise not to put undue pressure or coercion upon them? Mr Macfarlane: The Rugby Football Union will decide in the spring of next year whether this proposed tour should take place next year.

I am in no doubt that the tour would have damaging repercussions throughout the whole Commonwealth. Mr Carlisle is entitled to his

unacceptable rate increases in some parts of the country.

Mrs Edwina Curry (South Derbyshire, C) had caused laughter when she said the London borough of Lewisham had invested £100,000 of ratepayers' money in a commercial pantomime and then substituted for the name of the evil monster not that of William Livingston but Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Entirely in the spirit of Christmas (she said) would Mr Jenkin indicate which of the Opposition front-bench, including my fellow Liverpudlian, Mr Eric Heffer, he would like to nominate for the role of the good fairy?

Mr Jenkin: I would commend her talents as a draughtswoman and as a comedian to many pantomimes going on among some of the loony left councils, not least Lambeth and Lewisham.

The Bill I published yesterday (on rate capping) will bring some sense to the local governments who are bringing local government itself into disrepute.

The Government's commitment to rate capping was reaffirmed by Mr William Whitely, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, during other exchanges.

Mr Geoffrey Fiasberg (Hampstead and Highgate, C) had asked: Would he accept that millions of people voted for this Government in order to bring in rate capping and they would regard it as a betrayal if we, or the Lords, try to repudiate it?

Mr Waldegrave: He need have no fear. The current manifesto commitment to the Bill will be carried through to law.

Later Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab) asked Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing

Exceptions to the provisions would be of police housing, where the tenant was a police officer and the house was provided free from rent and rates, dwellings within the curtilage of buildings held for non-housing purposes, such as schools, and those normally reserved for occupation on contract of employment but exceptionally let on a temporary basis.

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said they had no objection to security of tenure being given to tenants of county councils with the exceptions which the Minister had sensibly put into the Bill. Where they differed from the Government was in extending the right to buy to those that were given security of tenure.

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views, but he must be aware of the wider context of sport throughout the Commonwealth. In all this I will not speculate about what vote may take place among the 50-odd delegates of the Rugby Football Union. People are free to travel and go anywhere in the world if they wish to participate but on this occasion I will wish to talk to the President of the RFU next year to ensure that they understand fully that at the recent Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Delhi we re-affirmed once again this country's commitment to the Commonwealth declaration on apartheid in sport.

Mr Ian Gow (Canterbury, Falkirk West, Lab): Apart from the mere verbal condemnation, what will he do about the proposed tour next year by the English rugby team and the current tour of Wales by the South African team? Would he like to see a ban on such breaches of the Glenageary agreement by the rugby authorities?

Mr Macfarlane: I hope he will try to maintain a little cool on this subject. I regret that the Welsh rugby authorities have decided to proceed with this tour. I would urge them at this 11th hour to consider the wider implications for sport in the Commonwealth and Wales.

The Minister of State at the Welsh Office has urged cancellation of this tour in the strongest terms. The tour is contrary to the spirit of the Commonwealth declaration on apartheid in sport. I cannot prophesy what I will say to the President of the RFU next year.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): In spite of the supposed susceptibility of the

Commonwealth, why does he try to penalize South Africa which after all is friendly to the West?

Mr Macfarlane: Perhaps he is not aware that just a few weeks ago the Prime Minister attended the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Delhi. The Commonwealth declaration on apartheid in sport was upheld by all members present.

Mr John Hume (Foyles, SDLP): The most evil form of discrimination is that which relates to the colour of skin. While people may change their religion or creed the one thing we cannot do is change the colour of our skin. A regime based on

upholding that is evil and should get no support from any quarter.

If the minister is serious about his disapproval of this trip, why does he not tell the English RFU that he will withdraw their passports?

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Mr Gow replied that the allegation was absurd and without foundation.

The Government is considering changes to the powers available to it to tighten up controls on the tipping of domestic and industrial waste on agricultural land. Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions.

He admitted that although the provisions of the General Development Order should be sufficient to control indiscriminate tipping of waste on agricultural land, there had been some cases.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C): The welcome recovery from the recession has led to a most unwelcome resurgence in this activity.

Mr Macfarlane: I am aware of his anxiety and has drawn to my attention a number of specific examples in his constituency. Abuses have been taking place and we are having consultations on ways of tightening controls.

I hope that early in 1984 we will be able to tighten up sufficiently to meet his demands.

A free society and a strong democracy could only be maintained if it was based on the principle that people had a right effectively to participate in the decisions that shaped their own lives — in the workplace, in the operation of the ballot box, and in the process of government itself.

Alone of the parties of this House (he said) we are prepared to say to the people of Britain we trust you not just to do what we say but to make your own decisions on your own lives.

This Bill was the first part of a great programme of reform. The Liberals and SDP wanted, its aim was no less than to make the powers of the British state weaker, in order to make the powers of the British people stronger.

The Bill was read a first time.

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Duke wins battle to keep spoils of Waterloo

Brussels (Reuters) - The Duke of Wellington emerged triumphant from a new battle of Waterloo yesterday.

Senator Jean Humbert, a Walloon nationalist, withdrew a demand that a 100,000 francs (about £1,250) annuity paid since 1817 to the heirs of the original victor of Waterloo should be struck from next year's Belgian budget.

The present Duke said in England that the Senator's demand was "a perfect bloody nuisance".

Senator Humbert retreated after being told by Mr Willy De Clercq, the Finance Minister, that it would cost Belgium at least 70 million francs (about £865,000) to settle the matter once and for all.

The minister promised to review the case, but added that a change would raise tricky issues of international law.

Royal plea for rare monkey

Geneva - The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the World Wildlife Fund International, has appealed for the return to his natural habitat in Brazil of a golden-headed lion tamarin, one of the world's rarest monkeys.

The total population is estimated at fewer than 100.

The 24 monkeys, now in the possession of a wild-life trader in Belgium, were smuggled out of Brazil, which strictly forbids their export. The Duke's statement issued here described the affair as "scandalous".

Fined for ghost in plumbing

Regensburg (AP) - A West German dentist and his wife were fined DM12,400 (about £3,200) for staging a poltergeist hoax. For several months an alleged ghost named "Chopper" flitted about in remarks emerging from plumbing fixtures in the dentist's office. The court ruled he was seeking publicity.

Desert attack

Algiers (AFP) - The Moroccan Army has launched a big offensive in the Western Sahara, according to the Polisario Front opponents. More than 25,000 men, supported by armoured cars and aircraft were involved, a statement said.

Gang held

Catanzaro (AP) - Police arrested 51 people in a crackdown on organized criminal groups in the southern Calabria region. The group was alleged to be responsible for 31 murders, four kidnappings and other criminal activities.

Bus rescue

Vaduz (AP) - Liechtenstein has introduced cheaper bus fares to make public transport more attractive to those who use the 13,498 cars in the principality. The aim is to reduce the damage to forests caused by pollution.

High notes

Perth (Reuters) - An English entertainer, Peter Maxwell, is claiming a world altitude record for piano playing in a hot-air balloon after going through a medley of old favourites at a height of 5,926 ft.

10 women shot

Ankara (AP) - A farmer in Alibeyli village, east of Ankara, yesterday shot and killed his wife, three daughters and a woman relative and wounded five women neighbours. He then fled.

Volcano erupts

Tokyo (AP) - Kustatsu-Shirane (7,095 ft), 50 miles north-west of Tokyo, erupted yesterday for the third time this year. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Siege broken

Khartoum (AP) - The Sudanese Government claims its army has broken a rebel siege of the southern town of Nasir, killing 480 rebels. The attack on the town began last month.

Correction

Protesters in Damascus were barred from routes to the American and French embassies, not to the Israeli embassy as reported on December 14. There is no Israeli embassy in the Syrian capital.

President's first press conference since Beirut massacre

Reagan says Marines will stay

From Nicholas Ashford Washington



Mr Reagan: Cheerful mood, stumbling replies.



Sir Geoffrey: to make a long overdue visit.



Signor Spadolini: Careful choice of words.

On three separate occasions he said that the presence of the four-nation peacekeeping force in Beirut had allowed progress to be made both in the Lebanese national reconciliation talks and in building-up the strength of the Lebanese Army.

However, despite his contention that domestic American politics would not have any impact on his policy towards Lebanon, he failed to dispel the widely held view that the Marines would be withdrawn well before next year's presidential elections.

Challenged to explain a recent remark by him that the Marines could be pulled back if there was a total collapse of order in Lebanon, he admitted that he had used "a bad choice of words". He had simply been referring to a hypothetical situation.

However, the President said that perhaps there would be a complete change of course to

the place where we were no longer asked to be there, that would be a reason for bringing them out.

Mr Reagan attempted to use the conference to explain why it was necessary for the Marines to be in Lebanon. Although his explanation was somewhat muddled and at times inaccurate, he did manage to get across the message that their mission was to help bring stability to Lebanon, at assist President Gamayel to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

The President parried questions about a highly critical report by a House armed services sub-committee into the Beirut bombing which stated that "very serious errors of judgment" by senior officers on the ground and up through the chain of command, had left the Marines vulnerable to attack.

He did, however, speak in support of General Paul Kelley, the Marine Corps Commandant, who was accused in the

congressional report of intentionally putting forward misleading evidence to the sub-committee.

Mr Reagan defended the recent US-Israeli agreement on strategic cooperation saying that it was simply a reaffirmation of a long-standing relationship which should not alarm the Arab world.

This assurance has been accepted by the leading moderate Arab country, Egypt, whose Foreign Minister yesterday delivered a message to Mr Reagan from President Mubarak.

● LONDON: Sir Geoffrey Howe will make his first visit to the Middle East since becoming Foreign Secretary earlier this year. Egypt and Saudi Arabia will be the main stops on his itinerary, (Henry Stanhope writes).

News of the trip leaked into the Arab press yesterday taking the Foreign Office by surprise

with final details still to be concluded.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State with special responsibility for the Middle East, has made two tours of the region since the British election last June which included Syria, Lebanon and the Gulf.

A visit by Sir Geoffrey himself has been long overdue. But other issues, particularly the EEC budget, have had to take precedence.

Syria and Lebanon are the most surprising omissions from the tour, particularly in view of current fears over the safety of the British contingent in the Beirut multinational peacekeeping force.

As it is, Sir Geoffrey will be going to the two leading moderate Arab states, leaving Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the US special envoy in the region, to represent the Western interest to the "frontline" governments.

● ROME: A date is awaited for the withdrawal of a part of the Italian contingent in Lebanon after the Government's decision for a gradual reduction was announced on Tuesday (Peter Nichols writes).

Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Minister of Defence, made his statement in reply to parliamentary questions on the Lebanon crisis. He was careful to ascribe the decision to a situation now requiring fewer troops on the ground than had been the case earlier.

The first phase had now passed and this, combined with good military planning, meant a partial withdrawal was feasible.



Bouncing back: Bob Hope, flanked by actresses Cathy Lee Crosby (left) and Ann Jillian, before leaving California for the Middle East, where he will entertain American servicemen. The comedian has been heavily criticized recently over the collapse of the Bob Hope British Classic golf tournament.

Fear of nuclear war

'Mad' superpowers denounced

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

An impassioned plea for the United States and the Soviet Union to draw back from nuclear confrontation and return to the negotiating table was made by Senator Jorge Illueca of Panama, the president of the United Nations General Assembly, as he closed his 38th session. He told the two sides to end their "madness".

He also renewed an appeal to Presidents Reagan and Andropov to join other members at a summit meeting of the Security Council and reverse the arms race, which he said had gathered an irrational momentum of its own, going beyond the control and will of either side. "I plead with you, stop, and stop now," he said.

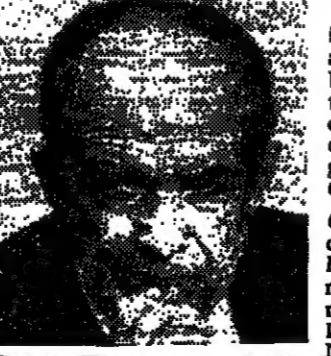
Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the US representative, took a more optimistic view. She had particular kind words for the 'Anglo-American alliance', emphasizing that, despite divergences on some votes, including the Falklands and Grenada, relations between the two were "just excellent".

● OTTAWA: Opponents of cruise missile testing in Canada are going to have their day before the country's highest court (John Best writes). The Supreme Court has granted Operation Dismantle, a coalition of anti-nuclear groups, leave to appeal against an earlier decision by the Federal Court which upheld the Government's right to authorize the testing.

Unless stopped by the courts, the US Air Force will begin testing cruise in north-west Canada late this winter. Operation Dismantle says the tests will contribute to the arms race and increase the risk.

During talks which dealt largely with the security situation in Europe after the breakdown of arms negotiations, Mr Varkonyi said his country wanted to see a continuation of détente and good relations with West Germany.

● GENEVA: The controversy on deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 is marked by "lack of rational argument and too much emotion", Dr Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General of NATO, said yesterday. He was answering questions at the Geneva Diplomatic Club (Alan McGregor writes).



Señor Illueca: "I plead with you, stop, and stop now."

Poles will not see 'Day After' film

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

After weeks of backroom political wheeling and dealing the Polish authorities have decided against showing *The Day After*, the controversial American television film about nuclear war.

For some time it seemed as if the Government would confound Western critics of the film by giving it prime time treatment on Polish television, thus demonstrating that Warsaw Pact countries were also capable of informing their public about the hazards of atomic war.

The US network ABC offered the film to Warsaw for a relatively small sum - under \$10,000 by some accounts - and a series of private screenings were arranged. The audiences included members of the Polish General Staff who approved the idea of showing the film to Poles. Special video recordings were presented to the government spokesman and presumably found their way to General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the head of state.

But on Tuesday, the decision against public screening was made, apparently after propaganda specialists had studied the written transcript of the film. The film includes references to a mutiny within the East German Army and it is made clear throughout that the war has broken out because of Soviet aggression.

One of the final scenes, in which the voice of the President is heard to say that the Soviet Union suffered equivalent damage to the United States, was seen as particularly controversial, particularly sensitive to socialist audiences.

The American network had insisted that the film should be shown with the full text, without censorship. The only people to see the film on Tuesday were a group of invited Soviet journalists. Rumours persist that Moscow, too, is at least considering buying the film.

Meanwhile, for the first time, the commander of Poland's air defence forces, General Longin Lozowski, has revealed what "counter-measures" Poland is planning to the stationing of new cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe. Air defence equipment is being prepared for the "complex situation".

"Advanced electronic equipment and in particular radio-location stations and automated systems for transmitting radar information - all this ensures conditions for the successful execution of the tasks of the missile forces and air defence interception," he said in an interview with PAP news agency.

The point was, he said, to speed up the Polish response to a Western attack and this required both coordination with neighbouring Warsaw Pact countries and efficient use of automated defence systems.

● MOSCOW: Broadcasting sources said yesterday that talks between ABC and the Soviet authorities over *The Day After* had been going on for several weeks without success. There was now little chance that the film would be shown in Russia (Richard Owen writes).

The film has been seen widely in the higher echelons of the Soviet political and military elite, sources said, but the Kremlin was against allowing ordinary Russians to see it.

Christmas in Bethlehem

A shortage of good will to men

Surrounded by an overwhelming majority of Jews and Muslims, Christmas for Christians in the Holy Land - the place where it is all began in a Bethlehem manger - has taken on a beleaguered air, redeemed more by the authenticity of the locations rather than any inspirational quality they may still possess.

Bethlehem, sometimes referred to grandiosely as the Sheffield of Palestine because of its preponderance of small workshops, is now warring its seventeenth successive Christmas under Israeli military occupation. As choirs from such unlikely spots as San Antonio and the Rand Afrikaans University burst into song during the televised celebrations, several hundred heavily armed Israeli soldiers will be on duty.

This year there will be an added sense of urgency as a new right-wing Jewish terrorist group, calling itself "Terror against Terror" (words which form the Hebrew acronym TNT), has recently launched a sinister campaign of booby-trapped grenade attacks against religious targets. Although Christian pilgrims have complained bitterly in the past about the distinctly unseasonal feel brought about by squads of Jewish soldiers swinging their UzL sub-machine guns, they may find their presence a distinct comfort in the circumstances.

Already this year Bethlehem's Arab University has been temporarily closed by military edict after a fierce anti-Israeli riot, while the town's main Palestinian refugee camp has been the scene of repeated, ugly stoning attacks against Jewish vehicles. Many of its inhabitants now fear that the Government is working secretly to shift it from its present site straddling the main road leading to the largest Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba.

In case such grim matters should be conveniently overlooked in the spirit of the festive season, Mr Elias Freij, the town's portly and astute Arab Mayor, is on hand to provide the stream visiting journalists with a Christmas message subtly laced with the complexities of West Bank politics.

When I visited his ornate town hall, he was standing on the balcony telling ABC television about the urgent need for Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, while correspondents from *Newsweek* and *US News and World Report* hovered in a room near by. "Because of the frightening growth of Jewish settlements, the time for talking about peace is already past five

minutes to midnight", he said. "Palestinians in the West Bank are aware that very soon they will have nothing left to talk about".

Back in Israel proper, the second most favourite Christmas site of Nazareth has also been experiencing problems which speak little of peace on Earth or good will to men. On Monday Mr Moshe Arens, Israel's Defence Minister, told a parliamentary committee of his shock at recent statements by Jewish residents of the exclusive new suburb of Upper Nazareth denying the right of Israeli Arabs from the original section of the town to live among them.

The campaign to keep the area exclusively Jewish is headed by a local association whose aim, in the emotive words of one Israeli journalist, is to maintain their area of the biblical town *Arabeefrei*.

In an effort to counter any criticism from Christian institutions, the Jewish National Fund every year performs a service not encountered in most Christian countries by handing out free more than 3,000 Christmas trees to diplomats, journalists, churchmen and the host of United Nations peacekeeping bodies based in the area.

Tomorrow: Christmas in America

Although the gifts are in fact well-appreciated and the cause of ribald comment as they are transported through the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where for most residents December 25 will be just another working day.

Other traditional customs abound, although most of the do-it-yourself basis that is the best guarantee here of a satisfactory result. Due to the rash purchase three years ago of a remainered, Taiwan-made plastic Santa Claus suit ("ideal for office party fun"), these for me now include a regular appearance before a large gathering of young Christians anxious to know why (a) Father Christmas has appeared from a flat sunroof rather than down the non-existent chimney and (b) whether he feels as hot as he looks, sporting a thick, ersatz cotton beard in temperatures of 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

But all-in-all, the abounding Christmas mood in the cities that the carols were written about is one of austerity combined with apprehension about the immediate future, especially the prospect of a new Middle East war.

Christopher Walker

West Berlin gets back on the track

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

allies, but they have already indicated agreement.

The urban railway, once one of the most advanced and extensive in West Europe, is in a sorry state. With broken-down stations, old coaches and dangerously decayed bridges and track, traffic in the Western sector has all but come to a standstill, and only three lines are functioning.

After the war the allies, administering Berlin as a single unit, gave control of its railways to the Eastern sector. After the building of the Wall in 1961, West Berliners boycotted the system. Trains continued running, though no East Berliners were allowed to travel beyond the border into West Berlin. No modernization or repairs were carried out by the communist authorities, however, and the S-Bahn lost a lot of money.

Permission for the new arrangement has to be obtained first from the three Western

The West Berlin Senate does not intend to restore the whole of the derelict network, which is no longer necessary as the underground system, built up and administered by the West Berlin authorities, is already adequate.

Of the 47 miles of track still in use, only about 25 miles will eventually be used for passenger traffic, according to the Senate's plans, and repairs to these lines are to start.

The total cost is enormous: DM253m of it will be made available to Berlin by the Bonn Government.

The East Germans are estimated to make a loss of about DM100m a year on the S-Bahn at present. In 1980 they tried to dismiss scores of West Berlin employees of the system, which provoked a strike that the communist authorities were able to break.

May death confirmed by judge

From Our Own Correspondent Rome

Dr Alessandro Jacobone, the judge investigating the Jeanette May case, gives no credence to allegations that she and her companion, Gabriella Guerini, could still be alive and in Latin America.

Reports that they might not have died will appear this weekend in a Milan publication. Jeanette May and her friend vanished from the town of Sarnano in November, 1980. Two bodies were found in January, 1982, at Podella, near Macerata.

"The one certainty we have is that the death of the two women took place at Podella and the remains found there were those of the missing women," Dr Jacobone said.

Jeanette May's identification was certain and the body was allowed to be cremated, he said. In Gabriella Guerini's case, the present tests were aimed at removing any possible doubt.

The judge said there was no truth that investigators had been sent to track the women down in Latin America.

A new inquiry was opened a year ago into the deaths. The judge refuses to comment on what progress he has made.

Cash for Nazi conscripts

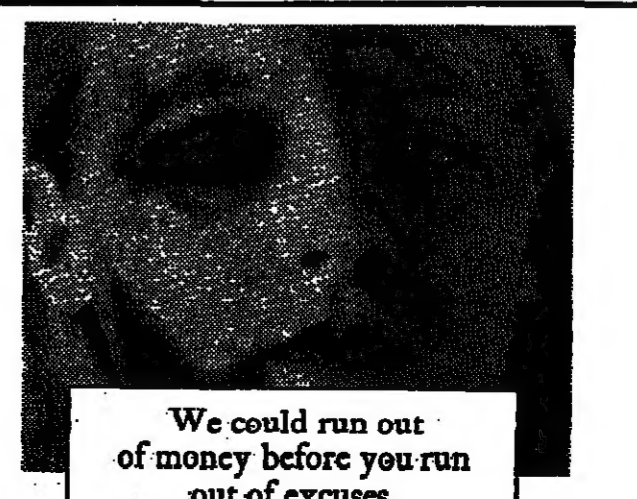
Mainz (AP) - Thousands of

Frenchmen forced to serve in the German Army during the Second World War are to be compensated after France's decision to return German-owned land seized in 1944, officials said here yesterday.

Some 60,000 Frenchmen who were impressed into the Wehrmacht from the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, or their relatives, will receive payments

from a DM250m (£62m) fund.

The money, provided in the 1984 budget passed this month by the West German Parliament, will be transferred to the "Endowment for German-French Understanding" in Strasbourg in three stages. The foundation will decide how to distribute the money to the surviving soldiers and relatives of others forced into German uniform, the officials said.



We could run out of money before you run out of excuses.

Before you put this newspaper down, get a pen, your cheque book (or a postal order) and send a donation to the NSPCC.

It doesn't matter how much you send; the money will be used to give the chance of a normal childhood to children who've never had one. Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, 30324 Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, 30324 Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, 30324

"I'll really try to send money to the NSPCC this year."

**From Christopher Masey
Stockholm**

On the same day the Soviet press agency Novosti issued a



Mr Palmer: A middle way out of the dilemma.

US customs men had previously obtained a court order for the removal of three containers of equipment from the ship just seven minutes before it was due to leave the West German port of Hamburg.

Four more containers stayed on board the Elgaren and were at Helsingborg, where they were put under armed guard until their contents could be examined by the War Material

● **DENVER:** Customs agents closed in on companies in Colorado and West Germany yesterday, arresting two people and seizing "critical" technology alleged by being sold illegally to the Soviet Union (AF reports).

Among the items that the International Consulting group of Englewood, Colorado, is accused of selling illegally to the Russians are devices used to detect and measure nuclear explosions and another used to etch microcomputer chips.



Missiles and mistletoe: Father Christmas visiting a Rapier anti-aircraft unit in the Falklands with a sack of gifts for the crew (from left) Gunners Kelvin Eady, Father Christmas, Gareth Jones, Andrew Griffin and Sergeant Philip Morris.

John Michael Hornby
j.hornby@shu.ac.uk

...the United Nations, Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, as a valuable peace mediator, opened the discussion that the greatest work has been made in America in the 1980s.

**From Ian Murray
Brussels**

An amalgam of different systems has been adopted by the EEC, though many of the basic signs which have been worked out in a trial project in Nottingham, have been accepted now as the European norm. Dr Graham James, director of mobility aids in Nottingham, was able to point out many of the basic difficulties - such as how to make sure the map was held the correct way up.

Zagreb (AFP) - Yugoslavs have just learnt to their

The Yugoslav authorities appear not to be worried about the origins of the Topic-Mimara collection. They have just spent 500 million dinars (about £2.75m) - in a country where there is not much loose cash about - on refurbishing a seventeenth-century monastery to house the collection temporarily.

From Alan Tomlinson, Manager

virtually the entire northern border. Amid reports of large convoys of government troops and tanks leaving the capital by night on the northern highway, Commander Wheelock said: "The immediate task is to deliver a strategic blow to the counter-revolution. We have launched a big offensive to

From Peter Nichols
Rome

Former Korean minister may get 10 years



The Bulgarian connexion: Mr Antonov at the time of his arrest in November last year

Moscow fears blood

By David Cross

The Soviet and Afghan auth-



From Our Correspondent

Afghan anni

Seoul (AP)—The prosecution

Mr Yoon was the first former Cabinet member from President Chun Doo Hwan's government to be indicted on criminal charges.

By David Cross

The sources believe the rebel fighters may be using the lull to infiltrate the city, ready for a big



In mid-December, according

From Florencia Varas
Santiago

According to the 45-year-old economist, former employee of the United Nations and leader of the largest opposition group

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

[illegible]

Paris (France) — The body of

US still gives most to Harare

From Our Correspondent

They denied the move resulted from political squabbles over Zimbabwe, though the list of areas of concern has been growing for several months.

The Reagan Administration is known to have been angered

From Our Own Experience

According to the researchers, the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* found that the average number of children per woman in the United States has declined from 3.5 in 1960 to 1.9 in 1990. The researchers also found that the average number of children per woman in the United States has declined from 3.5 in 1960 to 1.9 in 1990.

One of the passengers said however, that the captain of the SAA jet had disclosed that he

P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister.

Because of the general hostility to Pretoria, SAA is not permitted even to overfly. Let alone land, in the vast majority of African States. As a result, the flights to London have to go round the western edge of Africa over the Atlantic.

To bear the name Supérieur the wine must be of a higher quality than that of ordinary Bordeaux.

"PRETENTIOUS, MOI?"

This wine is a blend of both Merlot and Cabernet grapes. It has a full flavoured rich taste, and is ready for drinking now. So, please, don't lay it down.

Bordeaux Supérieur has a higher natural alcohol level than ordinary Bordeaux and is from vineyards growing fewer grapes per hectare.

This is a Bordeaux Supérieur from a cellar where the wine-maker has won gold medals at the last 3 national Paris competitions and 2 golds at the International competitions in Bordeaux.

Stowells of Chelsea have a Selection of 9 Wine Boxes including an Appellation Contrôlée Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine and an Anjou Rose.

Stowells of Chelsea
WINE BOX

SPECTRUM

A bumpy ride to fantasy

The Times Profile
Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl told me that what made him a writer was a most monumental bash on the head ("we had been delving for literary sources"). Before that he had been a square young businessman working for Shell, "going around with a furred umbrella, wearing a hat and things". But then came the rude conversion.

There was a silence in his sunny, low-ceilinged Buckinghamshire farmhouse while I digested this tale of the unexpected. One clock went tick-tic, tick-tic with the deliberate malicious advance of one of the characters in his adult stories about to brain someone with a frozen leg of lamb, or inexorably swelling with treacherous geniality into a loathsome human bee. But another clock went tickety-skippety, tick-toc, tick-toc like James whooping it up on The Giant Peach or Charlie skipping about the Chocolate factory.

For more than 30 years a renowned author of macabre short stories - *Kiss Kiss, Some Like You* - Dahl is now also one of the world's leading writers of children's books. *The Giant Peach* had a successful run as an opera at Covent Garden; *The Chocolate Factory* was made into a film with Gene Wilder, and two more, *Danny the Champion of the World* and *The BFG*, will go into production soon.

His latest book, *The Witches*, was published recently. It blows the whistle on modern witches who look just like your schoolteacher or respectable aunt, but secretly they are bald, their spit is blue as bilberry, and to the little boys smell of dogs' droppings, fresh dogs droppings.

Could such a persistently fertile imagination have been induced just by a bash on the head?

Oh, yes, he said. He had been in the RAF, in the war flying out of Libya in a Gloster Gladiator and it had hit the ground at 200mph, bashing his head off the reflector sight and flattening his nose. Having until then produced only dogged schoolboy letters, his first letter home from hospital was brilliant. He was a writer. A squashed one, but a writer.

Dahl is a very tall man with some of the stooping, anxious courtesy of Alastair Sim playing a children's

author, and much of the casual authority of the officer class.

Now 67, Dahl's life parallels in a curious way two strands of his fiction. It was full of adventure and scrumptious surprises: a 15-page children's story, *The Gremlins* (he invented the word), published in 1942 while he was a young air attaché in Washington, was such an astonishing success that he became frequent guest of Eleanor Roosevelt and FDR at the White House. This useful entrée was exploited by the boys at Whitehall who made him a spy - on the Americans. And he married a film star, Patricia Neal.

But his life also suffered blows from a particularly malicious fate.

His seven-year-old daughter contracted a rare form of measles and died. His young son was hit by a taxi in New York and suffered brain damage, and the story of Dahl's long struggle to help Patricia Neal recover from two massive strokes is well known. He's had many operations on his spine, a legacy of his plane crash.

Fantasy is very different from fiction

Storytellers are proud and rather defensive craftsmen. Says Dahl: "Novelists write from personal experience which they then just fictionalize. All of them, without any question! But we are talking about fantasy, which is very different from fiction." Children's storywriters, perhaps mindful of the severity of their shrill-voiced clients, would not like to admit to any intellectuality. So a blow on the head is a more satisfactory literary source than Belloc, which did influence him.

And Ambrose Bierce. The first adult book that gave him the creeps was *Can Such Things Be?* "Quite a good title," Dahl said, with envious approval.

"The real stylistic influence was Hemingway," Dahl said. "The short



Dahl pensive: "The real stylistic influence was Hemingway." Photographs by Suresh Karadia

sentence, use of adjectives. I knew Hemingway well.

"The great maxim he gave me was 'When you are going good, stop writing'. Terrific, because then you can pick up again. Old Hemingway gave me that advice and said it was his invention and I told it to Henry Moore who doesn't live far from here, in Hertfordshire, and I said this must be the same with your work when you are going good, chipping away at whatever. 'Exactly' he said. 'But it wasn't Hemingway,' he said, 'I've got the book by my bed'. So the old boy went up to his bedroom, upstairs two at a time and brought down *Conversations with Goethe*. Goethe had said the same thing!"

He smiled at the notion that this trade secret was shared by so many disciplines and generations.

"I don't know where my ideas come from. Perhaps my Norwegian background is an influence. Plots just wander into my head. They are like dreams, one is terrified of losing them. Once I stopped the car and got out and wrote a word or two on the dust of the boot lid so I wouldn't forget an idea."

He spoke of the difficulty of writing children's stories, of getting it right.

"My theory," Dahl said, "is that by the time a person becomes skilful enough at his writing trade he is usually in his 30s and really has forgotten what it's like to be a child. He has lost touch with it even if he had got children of his own."

How did you manage to keep contact?

"Oh I'm a bit of a jockey fellow you know, childish on one side of me."

The characters in Dahl's adult stories are vengeful creatures, generally scoring over the other moral lepers. In one, "Pig", an innocent young man, a lapsed vegetarian, is slit up for sausage meat.

"That is an odd story," he remarked, almost as if he had not written it himself. "It's an anti-human being story."

Unlike children's stories which are full of exuberance and optimism, is Dahl expressing a kind of disgust with adults?

"I think you can't help that after a time. Unless you are doing a P. G. Wodehouse. There is an enormous difference between a child who is primarily innocent and an adult who has become vengeful and greedy and everything else. You know as well as I that most adults are not very likeable people. I mean, Christ, we wouldn't have six wars going on right now if they were. They are not likeable people."

This brought us to the new field entered by Dahl recently with catastrophic results: political controversy. Asked in August to review *God Cried*, an account of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, for the *Literary Review*, he plunged into a headlong attack on all Israelis, and to many it appeared an attack on Jews.

'Shove them all in the dock with handcuffs'

Dahl still gets abusive telephone calls. School librarians have written to say they have taken his books off their shelves, and he showed me a letter from a Leeds councillor who had sent back his child's copy of *The Enormous Crocodile*.

A close inspection of Dahl's review, entitled "Not a Chivalrous Affair", reveals a curious stylistic affinity with his children's stories. It is in fact a tale of a chivalrous young airman - Dahl

himself - flying over Lebanon and allowing young ladies in white dresses down below, drinking wine with their pilot boy friends, to run for cover before strafing the enemy airfield. Then when the Israelis plunge, without chivalry, into this same territory 40 years later they must be routed like the witches. Exuberantly! Indiscriminately!

"Shove them all in the dock with handcuffs on! You will become violently anti-Israeli when you read *God Cried*. You simply won't be able to help yourself," he wrote.

Dahl, the fiction and the fantasy writer, had refused to observe the conventions of international political debate.

Why not? "I don't care about them. You don't do things by halves."

He said he was "cross and angry" that people should accuse him of anti-Semitism. "I am not in the least anti-Semitic. And there is nothing racist in my books."

But didn't he appear to be inviting the Arab nations to rise up and annihilate Israel?

"I should have said that the Israeli Labour Party was violently against this, and given them credit for it. But it was written so fast and so emotionally. But that's beside the point. The fact remains that there were about 24,000 people, mostly civilians, killed in that war. I am angry that you cannot protest against this kind of thing without being called anti-Semitic."

He pointed out that his story *Genesis and Catastrophe* was "a cry from the heart" at the bitter irony that in the Schiklgruber family Adolf was the one male child who did survive.

He has now turned to less explosive matters: he is working on sketches of his school days.

Peter Lennon

The Witches is published by Jonathan Cape at £6.50.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Gripping yarns on TV

In 1980 the BBC dipped into its pocket with reckless abandon and sent seven journalists across the globe to make *Great Railway Journeys*. I landed up in Peru, where I spent a lot of my time thinking that the behind-the-scenes drama of making a TV film was better value than what got on the screen. Brian Thompson landed up in India, where he must have had exactly the same notion as he chugged up and down the sub-continent, because he has now written a play called *Turning Over* which is all about a film crew and a presenter who are sent out to India to make a programme.

It's currently on at the Bush Theatre, very funny, very well acted, etc (which I can safely say I have never met Mr Thompson). But the curious thing is that the day after I saw it, I flew out to Jordan for four days with a BBC film crew and spent most of the time wondering if I was in real life, television or a Brian Thompson play. I wasn't really with a film crew, I suppose, but following one; I've become involved with a programme about the making of the latest David Attenborough natural history epic, and the Attenborough outfit were on their very last foreign location trip after three years of rushing about.

No wild life was involved, oddly enough. They wanted to film the earliest settlement of man they could find. There were four possible candidates as sites: two in Iraq and Iran and thus too dangerous, one in Turkey but totally unphotogenic and one in Jordan. The trouble with the Jordan one was that nobody knew much about it except its name, Beidha, and the name of the woman who discovered it in 1956 and excavated it, Diana Kirkbride. Was it worth going out to film? The producer's answer to the problem, which would never have occurred to me, was to ring up Diana Kirkbride and ask her: it is worth filming?

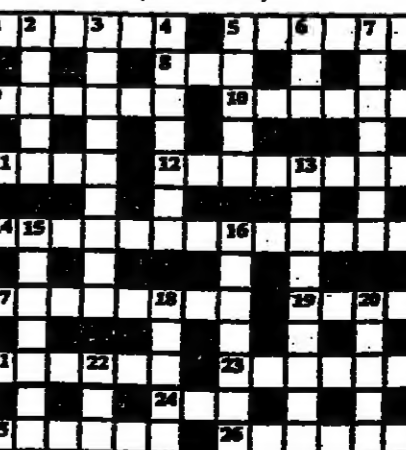
The answer was a massive Yes, so much so that he promptly decided to ask her out as well. And that is how she and I came to be standing side by side in a rocky valley in the Jordanian desert last Tuesday, watching David Attenborough squat in the 9,000-year-old ruins.

"These neolithic men," he told the camera, "found that instead of wandering in search of crops, they could keep the seeds and scatter them on the ground to grow next year. They had turned from being nomads into farmers..."

"Hold it," said Dicky, the sound man. "We're getting birds."

You wouldn't think you could get sound pollution in the desert, but there above us, high over the cliffs, wheeled four or five ravens making harsh black noises. We shouted at them to go away. We told them we were the BBC and ordered them to shut up. We threatened them with David Bellamy. It was then the Diana Kirkbride turned to me and said: "I don't know anything about television, but it does seem odd that wildlife can be such a nuisance to people making a wildlife film."

Odd is not the word. The only reason I was there was that I was making a TV programme about the making of a TV programme. The only reason that nobody has heard of Beidha is that Diana Kirkbride does not seek publicity - in other words, nobody has ever made a TV programme about it, or her. The only reason we didn't continue filming when the ravens finally flew off is that the Bedouins' sheep and cockerles started making a noise - there was a Bedouin encampment right behind the archaeological site, with herds of goats coming and going like commuter trains. The Bedouins represented a far more ancient way of life than the one we had come to film, but we were not there to film them or ravens or Diana Kirkbride, so we didn't. Given the chance, I think I'd film Diana, especially after I overheard her say: "Cole Porter came to see us when we were excavating Petra, and we got him up the cliff but we couldn't get him down again. Wheel-chairs are very tricky on cliffs."

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 230)

- ACROSS
1 Crucial moment (6)
5 Systematic plan (9)
8 Muscle twitch (3)
9 Hinder (6)
10 Archimedes' exclamation (6)
11 Dressage circle (4)
12 Headlong rush (8)
14 Unseen power broker (8,5)
17 Naked (8)
19 Test (4)
21 Loves deeply (6)
23 Nutty chew (6)
24 Curved shape (3)
25 Fashionable (6)
26 Early Stone Age tool (6)
- DOWN
2 Ardent lover (5)
3 Bribe (9)
4 Coarse's earlier boy (7)
5 Operatic solo (5)
6 Not him (3)
7 Japanese emperors (7)
13 Careless (9)
15 Bullfighter (7)
16 Fundamental nature (7)
18 Literary composition (5)
20 Expect (5)
22 Spirit (5)

SOLUTION TO 229
ACROSS: 1 Fodder 4 Patter 7 Nile 8 Lingerie 9 Defector 12 Men 15 Plinth 16 Egrets 17 Ska 19 Algorithm 24 Crevasse 25 Crop 26 Fallen 27 Dorman
DOWN: 1 Funk 2 Dolce vita 3 Relic 4 Panto 5 Trek 6 Elite 10 Extol 11 Reel 13 Macabron 13 Nose 14 Apes 18 Karma 20 Lysin 21 Orad 22 Evil 23 Spurs

Alan Franks discovers how the admen tune in to your wallet
Jingling all the way to the bank

In the beginning was the carol, which begat the jingle, which begat colossal revenue for the manufacturers of cigarette lighters and Cyprus sherry. If that is a simplistic, not to say profane, version of how the season's advertising melodies came into being, remember that carolling is in essence the selling of a message, and some of the most enduring of the species are those with what is nowadays called a good hook. That may not be a phrase which would have sat easily in the vocabulary of a Stanford or a Holst, but the impulse to wrap an idea in a cadence was there none the less.

Whether you are celebrating the nativity, or a more tangible form of consumer durable, tunes are a vital ally. Small wonder then that the airtime occupied by jingles on television and radio increases by up to 20 per cent at this time of year. Contrary to popular opinion, the writing of these mini-numbers - few top the 40-second mark - is not so much a licence to print money as a punishing exercise in compliance with the demands of hi-tech production.

One of our leading jinglers, Richard Harvey, who has done much for the image of a certain tender-fresh coconut confection in a rich chocolate coating, describes the collaborative process like this: "Mostly the writers get copy from the advertising agency and say it's a load of rubbish which should be rewritten to scan. Then the agency says it must have all these words in because that's what they've agreed with the client. And after that, a fight tends to occur."

The fight is usually fierce and furious; the client's unwelcome package of key selling words versus the composer's already dented self-respect. It is deep in the heart of these brawls that the reason can be found for the relentless duplication of jingles. It is not that the composers are second-rate hacks incapable of invention - quite the reverse - but that there is just half a minute in which to set a nearly uniform



number of words to music; hence the repetition of shape and tempo. Knowing that George Martin, whose arrangements gave the Beatles such sophistication, has a few skeletons jingling in his musical cupboard, I asked him what it took to succeed in the form. "It's all a question of using a tiny number of notes for their most immediate impact," he said. And then he started humming: "Murraymints, Murraymints, too good to hurry-mints... that for me remains the best of all time. Yes I know, I'm rather old. It was written by a chap called Johnny Johnson, who's even older than me." Then I hummed: "Why make haste when you can taste the hint of mint in Murraymints," and he said: "There you are. See how it stays in the memory."

I had to put the rhetorical question - whether Paul McCartney, his most famous protégé, was now or had ever been a member of the jingle-writing fraternity. "No," came the reply, "but he could unquestionably write them if he wanted to." Martin was too loyal to suggest that in fact many of Paul's hit records sound like glorified jingles, but a strong case could be made for the comparison. It proves the point that there is a bond between the jingle and the single, with the difference that the former is harder to bring off because of the intense compression demanded: theme, middle eight, reprise, all within a sixth of the compass of a standard 45 release.

Fourteen years ago, Martin and an American associate started a jingle agency called Air Ediel, which now has a select band of 14 composers on its books, with dozens more jingling up every week, asking to be taken on. Maggie Garard, the managing director, boasts that, between them, the members of the team can come up

with almost any style, from punk (for a certain bank that likes to say yes) through to light classical (for a sound system manufacturer with show-jumping connexions) and *vax humana* (for a chocolate bar with bubbles in it).

In an industry which has seen nothing but growth from the first days of commercial TV, it sounds as though there should be rich pickings for the composers, but earnings can be little more than peanuts in the jingle. On a flat rate basis, the writers can expect from £500 for a single tune to about £5,000 for a series. As Maggie Garard points out, you cannot forecast the catchiness of a jingle until it is launched.

At this point she too started humming: "Cook, cook, cookability, that's the beauty of gas... that's a very good example of one that turned into a long-runner. It started as a Middle of the Road arrangement, then we had the Suzy Quatro version, and now the Vivaldi. All the same tune."

One thing for which the jingle receives scant credit is its influence on "legit" pop; this sector borrows hooks and learns techniques from its mini-cousins in much the same way that the film industry benefits from commercials.

In some instances the jingle can even burst from the chrysalis and become a hit in its own right, the most famous example being Roger Greenaway's "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," which started life as a hymn to the merits of an American fizzy drink with world sales.

The form can also be splendid training ground for composers of more substantial music. Howard Blake, whose excellent album for children, *The Snowman*, has just been released, will not thank me for reminding him, but there is a certain light ale for whose popularity his music must take much credit. I can only hope he is so hard at work on an oratorio for Plácido Domingo and the New York Philharmonic that he will not be reading this.

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BOOKS

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the life of John Gray, possibly the model for Dorian Gray The young decadent who saw the Catholic light

In the Dorian Mode
By Brocard Sewell
(Tabb House, Padstow, £18)

When in the year 2000 the neglected masterpieces of the past century are finally assembled, among them will be Park, John Gray's "fantastic story", a short and dreamlike novel of extraordinary brilliance, in which the hero, Dr Mungo Park, dies and reawakes and seems to find himself in an England of the future inhabited by a new race of black Catholics, who are technically tremendously sophisticated, while the rosette-like descendants of degenerate white Englishmen live underground in wonderfully excavated caverns. "A thoroughly weird business, typical of its author," wrote Eric Gill, Park's printer, in 1931. The true weirdness of John Gray, a Canon of the Catholic Church in Edinburgh, has still perhaps to be appreciated fully. But Brocard Sewell's *Life* is a very good beginning, a most fascinating story sympathetically told.

Dowson's) in the style of the French symbolists, a hang-on of Wilde's, and possibly the model for the Dorian Gray of Oscar's novel. John Gray anyway made the most of the connexion, and signed his letters "Dorian" to Wilde and other friends. All the more surprising to find him, some years later, a parish priest in Edinburgh: no ordinary priest but a priest of an almost legendary decorum whose genuflection at the words "Et incarnatus est" in the Creed was agreed the experts, a lesson in reverence. Two Archbishops and the whole cathedral chapter of St Andrews and Edinburgh, with a hundred other priests, crowded into his church for the pontifical Requiem Mass in June 1934, when John Gray died.

Brocard Sewell describes well these two strange, contrasted worlds. He is good on the shimmering equivocal literary London of the fin-de-siècle: the Café Royal society and the Uranian underworld in which John Gray once moved; the sophisticated friendships with such esoteric couples as Ricketts and Shannon (Ricketts bound Gray's poems, *Silverpoints*), and the female poets, aunt and niece, who lived

in Regate and who used the joint male pseudonym of Michael Field. And, surprisingly perhaps, the book is even better on the life which was in many ways complete repudiation of all this surface glitter: the tiring, dull routines of Gray's parish work in Edinburgh, visiting the sick, comforting the mourning, and by way of relaxation playing golf with future bishops at St Andrews, which he once said, surely in a moment of euphoria, "competes with Jerusalem as a place I would choose to end my days."

Dominating Gray's weird story, and the link between his lives - lives which at first sight have little meeting-point at all - is the dark, svelte, foreign figure of his life-long friend Raffalovich. Marc-André Raffalovich, a rich Russian Jew brought up in Paris in intellectual circles, a homosexual, the author of *Uranisme et Unisexualité*, was like Gray himself, a convert to Catholicism. He followed Gray to Edinburgh in 1905 and established a régime of characteristically perfect taste and order in his house in Whitehouse Terrace, near Gray's Rectory in Morningide, a haven of culture in the Scotland of the time. His famous routine of Tuesday dinners, Sunday

lunches, which Gray always attended, brought a touch of exoticism to those northern suburbs, with excellent grapes from Raffalovich's vine, Raffalovich's housekeeper, devoted Florence Gribbell, who when she was unable to sleep would compose menus, is another of the very congenial minor personae with which this finely-detailed book abounds.

Gray may or may not have been Raffalovich's lover (just as John was possibly but not quite definitely Dorian). Such conundrums, though in their way undoubtedly intriguing, end up by not appearing especially important. For what comes over strongly is a clear and moving sense of the enduring and indeed the redemptive possibilities of friendship quite apart from niceties of its sexual expression. The relationship between Raffalovich and Gray in its Edinburgh days was in fact extremely formal, a set exchange of visits between 9 Whitehouse Terrace and John Gray's study at the Rectory, Sunday night was Whitehouse Terrace night. A friend remembered later:

Most Sunday evenings after a cold supper the front door bell would ring, and a few moments later the parlourmaid would open the drawing-room door to announce: "Canon Gray."



John Gray circa 1902

Tales of Abbot's Ale Greene King By Richard G Wilson

(The Bodley Head & Cape, £10)

It is generally a bad sign when you are reviewing a book if you fall asleep with the volume open in your hands. I am sorry to say that this happened to me twice in the course of reading this sound account of the East Anglian brewers, Greene King by a lecturer in Economics and Social History at the local University. No, I had not been drinking "Abbot" or "IPA", two of the strongest ales made famous by this splendidly independent outfit: it was just that some of the finer points of making, marketing, and mergers expounded here failed to absorb me as I had hoped.

Nothing wrong, you understand, with the genre of company history (I once earned a crust editing a weighty study of a Lancashire paper mill), nor is this anything other than highly competent or scholarly, but its subtitle ("A Business and Family History") led me to expect rather more in the way of human interest. Presumably as an act of family piety, it has been brought out by two publishing houses associated with the Greene dynasty. Sir Hugh (chairman of the brewery 1971-78), whose biography was recently published by The Bodley Head, is certainly enjoying a good innings this season.

The Greenes, like their infinitely richer Irish counterparts the Guinnesses (with whom they are connected through Sir Hugh's first marriage), afford another example of the classic progression from business and money, to titles and land, and then activity in the arts. The brewery was founded at Bury St Edmunds in 1806 by a draper's son, Benjamin Greene who went on to become a slaveholder and a newspaper proprietor. One of Benjamin's sons became an able Governor of the Bank of England; another, who was the first chairman of Greene King (merged in 1887) became an MP and was the father of a landowning baronet fond of hunting, shooting, yachting and practical jokes. Benjamin's youngest son, a hopeless failure, was the grandfather of the great Graham who shared with his brother Hugh "a long held interest in sampling the beers of different breweries". GG is not the only novelist to be produced by the dynasty for Christopher Isherwood's maternal grandmother was a Greene.

In all fairness, Mr Wilson writes well about the various characters, not just Greenes, involved in the story - though as a Yorkshireman he cannot resist digs at "paternalism" - and has plenty to say about our changing drinking habits. The "business" side, however, is weighed down by technical details and statistics. One shares his relief when he chances on such items as the litigation over the overflowing urinal at the "Cock" in Castle Camps.

A worthwhile book? Up to a point, Sir Hugh.

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

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Getting id and ego right Freud and Man's Soul By Bruno Bettelheim

(Chaito & Windus, £6.95)

"Freud," wrote Thomas Mann "writes a highly perspicuous prose. He is an artist of thought, like Schopenhauer, and, like him, a European author." Bruno Bettelheim's brief, perspicuous and important book shows how Freud's English translators saw his work as

"science" and played down its humanist, philosophical tradition. The Greek psyche is the German Seele which the English standard edition refers steadily to as "mental life". Freud, Bettelheim suggests, "chose the term (Seele) because of its inexactitude, its emotional resonance."

Bettelheim gives several examples of words where James Strachey coined new Greek - or Latin - derived terms to represent words which in Freud

come from current, colloquial German. The puzzling "cathexis" in German is simply *Besetzung*, "occupation". *Schaulust*, pleasure in looking, desire to see, becomes "scopophilia". "Parapraxis" translates a witty word made by Freud from two others, *Fehlleistung*, from *Fehl*, an error, *Leistung*, an achievement: a "mischievement" as Walter Kaufmann suggested. The Greek words reify and distance descriptions of behaviour or feelings which in the German are still close to actor and observer, or patient and analyst.

Perhaps the most pervasive cultural influence of the translation has been the Latinizing of Freud's "three provinces of the apparatus of soul." In German these are *Ich*, *Es* and *Über-ich*, rendered by Bettelheim *I*, *It* and *Above-I*, and by Strachey *ego*, *id* and *superego*. Bettelheim objects to these last on both therapeutic and larger aesthetic grounds. In therapy, he says, people say, and should say, "I am trying to understand why I did this." Not "My ego is trying to understand why I did this."

In *Freud and the Future* Thomas Mann spoke of a Freud in the tradition of Goethe, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer. His formal, convoluted, complicated tribute plays on the word "I" or *Ich* throughout. He speaks of the "ancient I", *das antike Ich* of an Alexander, who was a God, of a Napoleon who said "I am Charlemagne". "Not," Mann repeats, "I resemble" or "I recall" but "I bin". Mann's peroration revealed to us ourselves, the nervous, isolated modern "I" and of how he saw his work of strengthening it as a cultural work, akin to the draining of the Zuyder Zee. "Wo Es war soll Ich werden" said Freud epigrammatically. "Where it was must I be." Mann's translator, bedevilled by Freud's changes of horses in midstream, talks of the "modern ego", a whole, resonant, responsive between the "I's of Alexander, Napoleon, Mann himself, and Freud."

"Where it was let there be ego." A retranslation could not undo the years of thought, felicitous as well as infelicitous, conducted with the aid of these too solid imaginary objects. All the more do we need books like Bettelheim's to keep us alert and supple, to remind us of the complex nature of language and translation, culture and history, the limitations of their power, the power of their limitations.

A. S. Byatt

Grove for the home The New Oxford Companion to Music Edited by Denis Arnold

(Oxford, £50)

The New Oxford Companion to Music, a refurbished version of Percy A. Scholes' original work, has to be *Grove* for the home. At £50, or £37.50 if you nip in and buy it before the end of January, instead of £1,100 it is markedly cheaper. And it does take up rather less shelf room: two volumes, admittedly, but a mixture of critics whose names are familiar in the *Dailies* and *Sundays* and academics who are careful to confine themselves to learned journals. Certainly the new OCM looks good. Professor Arnold has scoured the picture libraries, or perhaps his assistants have: whether you turn to Carter, Elliott, or Chalmers the illustration will not be the obvious one. The individual entries, though, show rather less flair. Solidity not controversy is the order of the day, and a very English solidity at that. Inevitably there is a temptation

to check out one's special interests first and the opera sections are not among the best in the OCM. There is, for instance, no clear editorial line on providing synopses for standard works. *Il trovatore* and *Les Troyens*, on taster T, each get a scene by scene outline of the plot while *Otello*, arguably the greatest of Italian operas, is dismissed in ten lines with the comment: "... the opera follows Shakespeare closely, although the Venetian first act is omitted."

Librettists receive an even rougher deal. There may be a case, although I would not care to argue it, for leaving out Pavesi or Melhac, but to omit *Da Ponte*, *Lorenzo*, is inexcusable. What would Mozart have done without him? On the other hand anyone curious to know what Johnny Ringling had to do with Turkish music will find enlightenment. You cannot please all the people all the time. And at £37.50 the OCM is almost exactly the price of a single ticket to Covent Garden's *Otello* - also an opera by Rossini (1816), in case you did not know.

John Higgins

Pevsner of the elm Elm By R.H. Richens

(Cambridge, £35)

Elm. Just like that. Not even a definite article, let alone a subtitle, and only the briefest of publisher's blurbs, as though this were not the sort of book that anyone could be seriously expected to buy.

Well admittedly £35 is a lot of money, even these days. But this is no ordinary book. It is a work of immense scholarship, the product of years of devoted research, and yet, even for the reader who knows little or nothing about trees, much of it is not just readable but fascinating.

The oak, the ash and, until its recent tragic near-obliteration by disease, the elm have for centuries dominated the English rural landscape. Of this great trio the elm has been perhaps the most loved and the most frequently serenaded. As Mr Richens remarks, to identify with the English landscape has often meant to identify with an English elm.

But unlike the oak and the ash, the elm is not a native species. Correction. The Wych Elm, which flourishes mainly in northern England and on the

Another great game A Hitch or Two in Afghanistan By Nigel Ryan

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95)

In August 1982 Sandy Gall, known to TV-watchers, invited camera man Charles Morgan, sound engineer Tom Murphy and Nigel Ryan author of this book, to lunch at Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street (what a lot of plots have been hatched in Bert's) to discuss an expedition to film Ahmed Shah Massud, a young resistance leader and his Mujahideen operating against the Russians in the Panjsher valley, north-east of Kabul in Afghanistan. Ryan, who has considerable experience in presenting TV news, was preparing to write a book about it, and knows his Kipling and Edward Lear, and was to produce a film and act as Quartermaster and Paymaster of the expedition. He wrote the specification - Sandy Gall asked for black underwear to show up the lice - and negotiated the budget with Central TV for something like £60,000.

Sandy Gall's method of leadership was to be supremely confident and optimistic at all times. The expedition was to leave in three weeks.

Part of the agreement with the Mujahideen leaders was that the expedition should be responsible for hiring transport and horses, while food would be supplied by the Resistance. What was apparently not appreciated was that Mujahideen were hard as nails and normally half-starved, living mainly on yoghurt, rice and sweet tea with a little goat thrown in from time to time.

The book deserves an index. Gontran Goulden

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A Christmas Feast

Edited by James Hale

(Macmillan, £8.95)

This Christmas fare, prepared by Macmillan to replace its long-standing *Winter's Tales*, has all the fascination of a fine feast of quality goodies. Although there are still some excellent short stories, the bulk of the book is composed of chapters taken from novels which the editor takes to be the Best of British for the year. No one will have read them all (except I must suppose, those poor, exhausted Booker judges). So at the very least it's an excellent way of discovering what you've missed.

The piece from Russell Hoban's *Pilgrimage* amused me enough to send me out for the book. (I wish I could say it was on sale at my local bookshop, but no.) So all I can report is that a peculiarly unfortunate victim of a pogrom is calling on God for help, and is astonished to receive a vision of Christ instead. It's no use Pilgrimage insisting that till this point he had always dealt directly with His Father, or

Bits of the best of British fiction of the year

comparing "You're not the one I was calling," Christ replies: "I am the one who came though."

Another book I hadn't read and feel I now will is William Cooper's *Scenes from Later Life*. The title recalls Cooper's earliest work, which must surely have influenced both Amis and Wain, but whose own reputation has trailed a little. This piece about the awkwardness between a middle-aged son and his 92-year-old mother-in-law, is written with warmth and pathos as well as a sense of human absurdity.

There were other intriguing snippets. I have been intending for some time to read Anita Brookner's *Look at Me* and was impressed by the cruel accuracy of her perceptions. The extract lets us in on a married couple, who invite a friend with them on holiday, mainly to demonstrate the perfection of their marriage, and hoping, at any rate, that a beggar at the feast will confirm they are indeed better off together.

Fiction

question the editor on the justice of his extraction. It seemed to me that I, too, might have gone for the interview with the formidable casual British Council lady in Malcolm Bradbury's *Notes of a Native Son*. The hapless Petrow, unnamed, in the land of COSMOPLUT. The piece from Rushdie's *Shame* read magnificently. I was also pleased to recall what a very good book Maggie Ross's *Milena* had been.

Nowhere. But there might surely also have been some Alan

Sillitoe, or Emma Tennant? By and large, though, a pleasantly digestible Christmas Feast.

Elaine Feinstein

Into the landscape of the dead

Falls the Shadow
By Emanuel Litvinoff

(Michael Joseph, £8.95)

Kingsley Amis is on record recently as declaring he would no longer read any novel in which a gunshot did not ring out in the very first paragraph. Some surprises would await him in this one. The body that slumps dead over the first page of Emanuel Litvinoff's latest novel leads the reader into labyrinth of shadows, the

darkness of which is the shadow

upon which the State of Israel has uneasily founded itself. Shomron, the laconic, Israeli detective has no difficulty in discovering the assassin Sinclair. Apparently English, he is only too eager to declare himself. What becomes worrying is the motive that leads him to anticipate his own trial with such joy.

Shomron, is a Sabra, proud to throw off the anxious stance of the ghetto Jew, and his family troubles, including those of his brother-in-law, concern him as much as the case he is handling. Until, that is, Mossad takes a hand in his investigations; and we are taken into a world, as alien as another planet, which untold both the victim and his assassin with the numbers of Dachau. So it is we enter a landscape of the dead, peopled by ghosts who may yet be alive; and listen in on the madness and the morality of choices we have all been spared. This is a remarkable novel: incisive, always questioning; and never, for one moment, dull.

Elaine Feinstein

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THE TIMES DIARY

Who needs enemies?

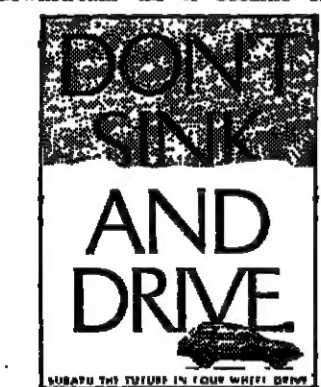
One of the last letters written by Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham, North West, before he resigned as chairman of the GLC's Arts and Recreation Committee was to George Levy, chairman of the Friends of Kenwood - the historic house near Hampstead Heath. In it, Banks takes a stern tone towards the Friends' efforts to persuade the Government to set up an independent trust for Kenwood. "I understand, of course, that the Friends of Kenwood will have a greater concern for Kenwood than for any other cause. But if their concern for Kenwood is so limited and so exclusive, does Kenwood need such friends? Do we, in our private lives, wish friends who will be friends to no one but ourselves? Such friends are too cautious to defend, or even attack, another than their chosen object of devotion. Their affection and dedication are real enough, but are they welcome?" He then goes on to quote the passage from Donne's *Devotions* that begins, "No man is an island..." Mr Levy remained calm under the weight of so many admonishments. He wrote back: "It is... our particular concern to look after the interests of Kenwood and its magnificent grounds, and in this regard it would be most helpful if Members of Parliament could find time to write constructive letters of help, rather than find fault with those of us who do unpaid work for the community."

Late post

Yesterday, London's chief post office by St Paul's Cathedral, three of the four clocks were showing the wrong time. The clocks are more than a century old and because the post office is a listed building, cannot be replaced by newer models. In spite of the building's antiquity, a television set showing Post Office commercials has been installed on the serving floor. This was functioning perfectly.

Fluid drive

Subaru, the Japanese car company, has recently been running an advertisement advising readers, "Don't sink and drive". Last week one of its salesmen, Peter Danby-Smith, had to abandon his Subaru after it failed to negotiate a flooded ford in Yorkshire. It was washed downstream till it became stuck



under a bridge. After it had been dislodged by a tractor and a breakdown wagon, Mr Danby-Smith found a rainbow trout on the driving seat. "But it wasn't much of a consolation," he says.

Mass appeal

Andrew Palmer, head of the Foreign Office department which deals with the Falkland Islands and Britain's relations with Argentina, provided an end-of-term treat for his junior staff which was both entertaining and educational - he took a party of 24 to see *Evita*. Palmer and his deputy, Roger Westbrook, had found as the Argentine elections approached, that some of their staff did not really understand what Peronism was. Palmer said: "One of President Alfonsín's tasks now in working to solve the country's economic problems is to retain the support of the trade unions, many of which are Peronist-led. It's important to realize that Peronism remains a potent force. Everyone enjoyed the show very much and Palmer would like Andrew Lloyd Webber and/or Tim Rice to write a musical about Alfonsín's triumph, so that he can take a staff party to that too."

BARRY FANTONI



Cold comfort

Brittish has chosen a painting from Glasgow Museum for its Christmas card this year. It is called *The Day After*, by William Greenock, painted in 1904 by Patrick Downie and shows the very spot where the Scott Lithograph works probable closure and the loss of more than 4,000 jobs after Brittish's cancellation of its order for a \$86m deep sea drilling rig.

The BBC wants but one thing for Christmas: an audience as big and devoted to Auntie as it used to be. Try as the corporation might, the viewers have deserted it for the other side in droves. Tomorrow the tinsel and glitter-riden bandwagon of the Christmas schedules is rolled out in an attempt to win back these viewers. The rumour hotline within Broadcasting House currently has it that 'menial' topplings will shortly follow if normal service is not resumed and maintained over the holiday.

The corporation is genuinely bemused over why it should be doing so badly in the ratings. It has not exactly been scheduling a seven-part series on *The Life of the Lark* at peak time on Saturday nights, or producing such quintessentially diabolical drama of yore as the *Borgias*. Yet the figures remain doggedly rotten. For the week ending December 11, the BBC had one programme in the ratings top ten, *The Two Ronnies*, which came in sixth. The commercial network, with Channel 4, attracted 54 per cent of the total audience, eight points ahead of the two BBC channels.

A quick trawl among the BBC's rivals reveals an unusual accord over where the blame lies. "The scheduling has been lousy," according to one ITV executive. "When we came out with *The Winds of War* they did nothing against us on the first night. We pulled in the viewers and they have stuck with us. ITV has had a strong schedule, of course, but the BBC handed us a lot on a plate. Just look at Sunday nights - *By The Sword Divided* has provided no competition for us at all. And *Sixty Minutes* has been a disaster."

This is a viewpoint shared by the advertising industry. Young and Rubicam, one of the leading television agencies, says: "While much of ITV's success can be attributed to its strong programme line-up for the month (September), BBC's schedule in comparison was

Auntie's festive low-de-low

David Hewson describes the danger signs for the BBC as it battles to regain its Christmas ratings

undoubtedly its worst for some considerable time. The extent of ITV's dominance is shown by the fact that not a single BBC programme appeared in BARB's (Broadcasting Audience Research Board) listing of the month's top 50 rating programmes."

The BBC hopes that the holiday will provide some reversal of its fortunes. Its £10m package is as predictable as a Christmas Day menu, 90-minute films of yesterday's successes such as *Last of the Summer Wine* and *All Creatures Great and Small*, and new versions of existing light entertainment programmes. There may be scarcely a new idea in the whole thing, though that is not necessarily bad for the ratings; but one wonders if this desperate recycling stands much chance of success.

The ITV companies are far more worried about maintaining their lead outside the holiday period than winning a battle for kudos within it. Even if the BBC gains a majority of the Christmas audience, it is by no means certain that it will recover any ground in January. The behaviour of the audience last Christmas seems to support the commercial network's attitude towards the holiday; then the viewing figures fell by 12 per cent, partly because of the number of people using video recorders to watch rented films. With video ownership now around the five million mark, the trend is likely to continue this year.

The corporation cannot even comfort itself with the notion, current six months ago, that

television viewing itself is in decline. ITV's successful autumn, and the arrival of Channel 4, has actually increased the amount of time Britons spend in front of the set. In October, the average daily viewing per home reached 5.2 hours, 6 per cent more than in October 1982. The rise was wholly due to the commercial sector; viewing of BBC programmes fell by 6 per cent in the same period.

Had Channel 4 performed as well as it might, the news for the BBC would have been worse. But Jeremy Isaacs' organization is now beginning to find its feet, to the corporation's likely detriment. January sees the arrival of one of the network's mini-series, *The Far Pavilions* (while, oddly enough, Granada's literary adaptation of *The Raj Quartet* will go out on ITV 1) in a new scheduling policy. The result, placing Channel 4's more popular programmes together in blocks, should increase its present viewing share which, in the latest figures, stood at 5 per cent; although it may, of course, take viewers from ITV 1 instead of the BBC.

What is the BBC's reaction? Initially, it has been to bring up the shock troops. *Hi-de-hi*, which was once one of the corporation's most popular comedy shows, was dragged into the Sunday night schedules at least three weeks before planned in an effort to hold a few more viewers before *By The Sword Divided* thrusts *Cromwellian* English in front of a lukewarm audience. The gambit failed; *Hi-de-hi* has failed to make the BBC's own Top Ten, let alone that of the television community

overall. Should Christmas go the same way, one must look to changes at Broadcasting House.

There is a school of thought which says that the BBC should be above chasing ratings since it is principally a public service broadcasting system. This line of reasoning is insidiously attractive. The BBC's director of television programmes, Brian Wenham, was forced to admit recently: "We are financially unable to compete with ITV's blockbusters in the way some of us would like."

If the corporation cannot compete on expensive drama, which now costs about £250,000 an hour to produce, could it not concentrate on quality in preference to mass appeal?

Politics dictates otherwise. Next year, the corporation must enter into new negotiations about its future licence income. A new colour television licence of at least £60 a year is likely to be demanded by Broadcasting House. If its services can attract the regular attention of only about 45 per cent of the viewing public, the BBC's mandarins believe that they will come under intense pressure to justify their existence. For them, just as for the ITV companies, ratings have become an essential way of life, almost obliterating the fact that the BBC's reputation is almost wholly founded on programmes which are resolutely not of the common herd.

The corporation's potential January blockbuster, which has been juggled around the schedules after the fashion of a fading centre forward looking for the best place in a Fourth Division football team, is *Thornbirds*, the latest in a series of American mini-series, and by all accounts no better and no worse than its flaccid stablemates.

It is flimsy stuff around which to set a cliffhanger about one of the world's great broadcasting institutions, and a measure of the stormy times facing a BBC torn in several contradictory directions.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Royal smokers: Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI - but how can David Simpson (right) say tobacco killed them?

Smoking: a small puff for a little less humbug

To the fray, however. The lengths to which the anti-smokers will go is exquisitely demonstrated in another part of Mr Simpson's reply. Defending (as of course I would also) the right of the Duke of Gloucester to be patron of the anti-smoking organization, he said that the Duke's keen, active and concerned patronage of ASH reflects the seriousness of our work and responsibilities; and no doubt members of the royal family might wish ASH had been around for much longer, seeing that smoking killed our last four kings.

Our last four kings, as any standard reference book will confirm, were Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI, and one point must immediately be conceded to Mr Simpson: they are all undoubtedly dead. The matter, however, cannot be allowed to rest there, and it is the reason why it cannot be allowed to rest there that provides the subject of my remarks today.

Edward VII died, in 1910, at the age of 69, a span somewhat above average for those days. George V died in 1936 at 71 (par for the course), the Duke of Windsor at 78, well above average, and George VI at 57, well below it.

All four of these monarchs smoked; the last of them contracted lung cancer, and may be presumed to have died of it. As Mr Simpson knows, but will wriggle himself into scintilla rather than admit, the link between smoking and lung cancer, though undoubtedly very strong, cannot prove that any particular sufferer from the latter got it from the former, and still less can it prove that smoking was the only cause. Still, I certainly cannot prove the opposite case, and Mr Simpson is entitled to the probability that smoking killed George VI. One down and three to go.

Edward VII suffered from a

number of diseases (including lechery, gluttony and gambling, though even Mr Simpson would not claim that these are induced by smoking); he had typhoid in 1871, a form of appendicitis in 1902 and some bronchial trouble in the year of his death, which was very abrupt. There is no evidence from which we may conclude that he was "killed by smoking", and precious little that his smoking had everything to do with his final illness.

George V played golf, gave up drinking throughout the First World War (if it comes to that, George VI gave up smoking throughout the Second) and broke his pelvis in a riding accident in 1915, but he survived all these catastrophes without lasting harm. He also survived, though much more narrowly, a streptococcal infection picked up in 1928; that was eight years before his death, and it made a complete recovery from it. In his case, there is not the slightest reason to suppose that smoking ever did him any harm at all.

Edward VIII enjoyed generally good health throughout his very long life; he was a fairly silly man most of the time, but again, Mr Simpson would presumably not argue that smoking causes softening of the brain. As for the present Queen, she doesn't smoke at all, and anyway is still alive, so that's all right.

Now estimate, to three places of decimals, the degree of self-deceptive intolerance from which a man must suffer to take the above facts and turn them into "smoking killed our last four kings". Having done that exercise, try working out how far you would trust the same man to tell you the time of day and get it right in fewer than three goes. It is not too much to say that Mr Simpson and his kind are firmly convinced,

or at any rate behave as though they are convinced, that if any person first smokes and then dies, it must follow as the night the day that the smoking was the direct and sole cause of the dying. It is useless for me to tell Mr Simpson that my maternal grandfather smoked 50 cigarettes a day throughout his adult life (his last breath was used, literally, to inhale his last puff) and died at the age of 84, because he will undoubtedly reply that if grandpa hadn't smoked he would have lived to 168, and I cannot prove him wrong. But I can prove him reckless and absurd in his fanaticism, and on the whole I think I just have.

Smoking is undoubtedly dangerous: nobody should be encouraged to do it, or to admire it. It is also a fairly nasty habit. It undoubtedly aggravates many illnesses, and no less undoubtedly causes some of them, and fatalities therefrom. But no one can say that this man contracted lung cancer and died of it because he smoked, whether the corpse was of a king or a rascal, and it is worth adding that some people contract lung cancer without ever setting eyes on a cigarette. And to claim that "smoking killed our last four kings" is not merely nonsense; it is the thirteenth chime of the clock, which casts doubt on all that has gone before, and diminishes the effect of Mr Simpson's more sensible work.

It is well that there are organizations which seek to draw our attention to the dangers of smoking, but it is not at all well that the members of such organizations should behave as though smokers are *hostes humani generis*, or as though the rules of evidence do not apply to those who campaign to stop them smoking. Those of you who have German may take extra comfort from the following verse; it is impossible to translate gracefully, but I offer a very free version to my monoglot readers:

*Alkohol und Nikotin
Raff die halbe Menschheit hin:
Oft Alkohol und Rauch,
Stirbt die andere Hälfte auch.
If you smoke and if you drink,
It is later than you think:
If such poison's not your game,
You will perish just the same.*

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Ronald Butt Are the churches missing the point?

This is how the present life of man on earth, King, appears to me in comparison with that time which is unknown to us. You are sitting feasting with your ealdormen and thegns in wintertime, the fire is burning on the hearth in the middle of the hall, and all inside is warm, while outside the wintry storms of rain and snow are raging; and a sparrow flies swiftly through the hall. It enters in at one door and quickly flies out through the other. For the few moments it is inside, the storm and wintry tempest cannot touch it, but after the briefest moment of calm, it flits from your sight, out of the wintry storm and into it again.

So this life of man appears but for a moment; what follows or indeed what went before, we know not at all. If this new doctrine brings us more certain information, it seems right that we should accept it.

It was in these words, according to Bede, that one of the chief men of Edwin of Northumbria answered the question the king put to each member of his council: whether they should become Christians. The midwinter imagery of this evocative story is a reminder that Christianity has always been principally about first and last things. Inevitably, it is also about things in between; about the conduct required of mankind on earth. How, logically, could a religion concerned with the essential nature and destiny of humanity be otherwise? But its claim to revelation of first and last things has been its mainspring and the power by which its teaching first won the western world.

Today, however, it is the things between, here and now, that are dominant in the teaching of Christian priests and ministers. Their concern is concentrated on the details of political, social and economic action, and that is why, throughout this year, the debate about the proper relationship of Christianity to politics has rumbled on, in the correspondence and other columns of *The Times*, and also widely elsewhere. Churchmen have been praised or blamed both for what they have said on such matters and also for being as involved as they are in them, irrespective of what they have said.

On no question have they been more heavily involved than in that of nuclear war. The Catholic hierarchy and the Anglican Synod have rejected demands from within their churches to support unilateral disarmament (but in search of consensus) both have moved well beyond the broad Christian imperative that nuclear "deterrence" is acceptable only as a means of maintaining peace through balance on the way to disarmament. They have entered the area of detailed political and strategic (rather than theological) argument, the Catholics criticizing the presence of cruise missiles in Britain and arguing for greater British control over them, the Anglicans calling for a commitment to "no first use".

The same tendency towards detailed political involvement is evident in church reactions to the running debate on the shape and dimensions of the welfare state and (particularly because of unemployment) to economic policy. It is, of course, self-evident that Christianity is a religion which should condition the action and thinking of anyone with the least claim to heed it. By its nature, it requires each individual to take responsibility when it is needed

for the well-being of others which must mean those in need and those without work.

But there is nothing, for instance, in Christian teaching which provides answers to the question when and whether the welfare of others is best assured by individual or communal action and, if by both, in what proportions. It can state the principle but cannot prescribe the means of practising it, in social circumstances that are always transient. It cannot tell us that we should seek a society in which all can work, but it does not provide the science for achieving this. It cannot tell us, *ex cathedra*, whether work is better created by Keynesian economics or by relying on control of the money supply to defeat inflation.

Why, then, do churchmen increasingly express the imperatives of Christian principle in terms which imply, or even indicate openly, particular political action. I put the question recently to a prominent member of the Anglican priesthood who is himself much concerned with the social implications of his creed. He was remarkably honest and candid, his answer boiling down to something like this. Nowadays, when it is harder for churchmen to point upward to heaven (and he pointed) the ultimate questions are much harder to tackle. In a way, he said, the Anglican church is a very honest church and does not attempt to over-ride doubt with strong theological assertions, but tries to carry people with it in an age of doubt.

The implication was that the sociological concern of contemporary churchmen is, in part at least, a compensation for the uncertainties about ultimate questions in an age when, for so many, scepticism has gnawed at the fundamentals of faith. It is a phenomenon which I do not think is confined to one church.

Another Anglican priest spoke to me recently about the crowd of once-a-year attenders he expects at his church at midnight on Christmas Eve, of his uncertainty about how to address a crowd largely unknown to him, some of whom have come from the pub; of the fact that he has sometimes even been glad that there were one or two policemen among his congregation. Why do they go? They are, perhaps, like Bede's sparrow, coming in from the darkness for light and warmth and even searching in some way for a belief towards which the church, preoccupied with social action, is not always well placed to help them in an age which is not one of consensus.

The tendency of our time is for the clergy to allow respectable doubt on what used to be the unquestioned tenets of their creed, while holding with apparent certainty the vision of right and wrong as it might be perceived by the presenters of *Newsnight*. To change a 2,000-year-old conviction about marriage; to doubt parts of the Gospels is permissible. But it would not be respectable to question some of the obsessive ethics of the secular world.

Yet if churchmen have few certainties to offer about the fundamentals, about first and last things, what special weight is to be attached to their attachment to particular social and political prescriptions? Their danger is that of missing the main point. It is not, I think, for social and political instruction that the churches are crowded on Christmas Eve.

Jonathan Sale

The Xfam way to a happy Oxmas

In the steam from the kettle, the flap of the envelope peeled up easily. It was an appeal for money, again. I like to check the children's letters to their grandparents in the special box, but it is often the content that makes me blush first.

"What I want costs £16.99," she wrote. "I am saving up for it but so far have only got the 99p - Love, Rebecca. P.S. Peter has got his BMX bike now so you needn't give me anything for that. But I am saving up for some Star Wars spaceships. This is what they cost."

There follows a catalogue of what it takes to equip Darth Vader's intergalactic fleet, each item in double figures and the total, approaching three. My only consolation is that the youngest child makes no demands of a financial nature. That is because she is too young to write.

I corrected the worst of the spelling mistakes, added a full stop or two and revealed the flaps. It takes long enough to wheedle epistles to relatives out of them, without criticizing the one element powerful enough to induce them to put pen to Snoopy writing-paper.

There is probably no harm done. The grandparents do not complain. They do not send cheques to the full amount, either; but money does find its way into post office accounts.

Rather than stand in their way, I have decided to put on a more professional basis the traditional Christmas pastime of extracting money from relatives old enough to know better. For the benefit of my children, and yours, I have been working on a series of formula letters which should prove as effective as the versions falling (through letterboxes from the more grown-up (and worthwhile) charitable organizations. They should be copied out in neat handwriting, incorporating a few deliberate misspellings to add pathos.

Dear Grandparent, I know that you have many demands on your resources at this time of year. It is for this reason that you will want to be sure of the aid that you provide going straight to the recipient for whom it is intended, that is, me. I can guarantee this absolutely, and would

be happy to provide any account numbers or wiring slips for this effect. With warmest thanks to you past and future, support...

Dear Gran, We at Peterfam are proud of our unrivalled record of eliminating administrative costs. No funds at all are diverted into loss-making activities such as expenditure on paper and envelopes, as these relate to your last birthday gift, and the stamps are courtesy of Toytown (we trust that the postman's surcharge is no great inconvenience). With best wishes for a prosperous New Year...

Dear Aunt, Would YOU like to sponsor a doll? For a modest weekly outlay, YOUR name will be inscribed on the underwear of a Barbie or similar fine doll purchased by YOUR kind donation. Without YOUR care, this doll would be left high and dry on the shelf of the toyshop. Wouldn't YOU like to bring a smile to its precocious little lips and rounded cheeks? All credit cards taken. Goodbye, and God Bless...

Dear Aunt, Please find enclosed a picture entitled *Car Crashing into Tomato Ketchup Storage Vat* or possibly *Luke Skywalker in the Grip of the Dwarf Sun*. It was painted in the dark and the red is all green instead. This is because the Torch Fund is, like the batteries, extremely low, which is a grave handicap to artistic activity after parents have switched lights out. The above-mentioned lack of red is caused by serious losses and possibly thefts in the Fibre-Tip branch of this organization. I know that we can rely on your assistance in balancing the books. Unless, that is, you want to be bombarded with green smears every week during 1984. Yours ominously...

Dear Uncle, It is a savage irony of the festive season that in a class of happy, well-fed children, there is one handicapped by complete lack of a Z100 Little Star-Battler Electro-game. This is not a Third World shanty-town but the capital city of western democracy! Will you help to remedy this scandal? Will the Z100 Electro-game hang from a child's tree? It is, after all, when Christmas is all about. Yours self-righteously...



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

HARD POUNDING

Cabinet ministers congregated this morning for the last time in 1983, and Parliament rises for the Christmas recess this afternoon. It is six months since the election, but the political landscape seems quite different from that June day. Autumn brought its share of political diversions. The Opposition has a new suit of clothes though there is no evidence yet that the body inside the clothes has undergone any lasting change. However, the Labour Party is getting used to the feel of a new leadership. The flavour of that leadership places less emphasis on policy, and thus less on faction - let alone radicalism - and more on polishing the veneer of the party machine and achieving effective management and control. This technique has certainly had an effect in terms of the Labour Party's position in the opinion polls and in the general improvement of party morale. It cannot yet be said to have resulted in the party showing any desire or capacity to work for a sustained coherent and above all credible critique of the present government and its policies.

Indeed the attitude of the Kinnock Labour Party seems to be based primarily on the view that the preservation of unity is its most important strategy, while waiting to take advantage of the failure of this government, on the principle that oppositions do not win elections, though governments lose them. Given the divisive policy-making in the Labour Party's recent history that must be a tempting option, and who can blame Mr Kinnock

and his colleagues for this complacency when they see the Alliance slipping further in the polls and appearing to be less and less credible as an alternative political system?

Meanwhile it is said that the Government has become accident prone. That is so only in a superficial sense. On the underlying issue of the economy the Government's position is stronger now than it was in the summer. The evidence of controlled inflation persists, and even the ranks of Tuscany can scarce forbear to admit that economic recovery is with us. Only yesterday the OECD forecast that Britain's growth would exceed the European average next year and probably in 1985, pausing only to ask - inevitably - whether the recovery could be sustained.

The Government can therefore feel some satisfaction. Its doggedness in economic policy is paying off. Cabinet ministers have their heads down, persevering with unglamorous but essential programmes, denying by their every action the existence of the alleged "hidden manifesto"; but surely storing up some future trouble for themselves in the process.

There are dangers in an approach based on the politics of attrition. For a start it means that the argument about public spending will recur each year, generating much heat about sums which are essentially marginal in terms of the total budget. It means that economic management will continue to involve manipulation and bullying in the

public and private sectors, where the Government will continue to wield the power of the state purse which it has tried absolutely without success to reduce, hoping instead that economic growth will achieve a relative reduction.

Rhetorically the Prime Minister and the Chancellor still talk about reducing the scale of government. Few of their colleagues now join them. The reality is that this Cabinet, after six months, has come to terms with a more traditional Tory mixture than the radical thinking still perceived lurking between the lines of Prime Ministerial speeches.

Traditionalist Tory politics have perhaps allowed ministers to escape from facing up to the central contradiction in the radical position. That was to argue for the disengagement of government from many activities, while assuming powers of control and supervision - ostensibly as a transitional mechanism - which betrayed the very purpose and principle of disengagement.

The Prime Minister's political personality has always been clear and uncomplicated to voters. They have hitherto known what they can expect from her. If she, and by extension, her Cabinet, now change character and accept that they are in power to manage the existing and faulty system, not to change it, they will have some explaining to do. The trouble with the politics of attrition - of "hard pounding" - is that people forget what the pounding is for.

TWO CABINETS: ONE TERRORISM

One item on the agenda of today's Cabinet meeting is the possible proscription of Sinn Féin. There is a strong *a priori* case for doing so. Sinn Féin is a party which openly advocates the violent overthrow of the institutions of the state, the "armed struggle" as it likes to call it. It operates the soft half of the Armalite/ballot box duality proclaimed by the Provisional movement. Moreover there are ample grounds to suspect some interchangeability of membership between Sinn Féin and the IRA - daylight politicians and night-time terrorists, in Lord Fitz's vivid image.

In these ways Sinn Féin is implicated in terrorist crime, though to a degree that keeps it for the most part outside the reach of the criminal law. The affiliation is a direct source of strength to the IRA, which is an illegal organization. Sinn Féin is therefore a legitimate object for extension of the criminal law, since the entitlement of a democratic state to proceed against internal organizations that seek to mobilize support for violent subversion is not to be doubted. Both the power and the justification are present for proclaiming Sinn Féin an illegal organization.

Unfortunately to proscribe Sinn Féin is not to cancel the phenomenon Sinn Féin exemplifies, which is organized support among a section of the population, in sentiment and in practice, for the pursuit of a political end by means of terrorism. It is possible that proscription might even have the hollow success of dispensing the name and reinforcing the reality. The matter is to be judged not simply in terms of principle or in

accordance with feelings of outrage, but by reference to utility. That requires a careful appraisal of its probable effects.

The Irish Cabinet met the day before yesterday with the same item on its agenda. It has not committed itself and wants further study to be made, but the indications are that it is unlikely to decide in favour of a ban on Sinn Féin; that it may prefer to move along more precise lines, and is exploring ways of extending the law relating to incitement and abetting. That might allow the authorities to move against selected subversives without either driving Sinn Féin underground or having recourse to ineffective blanket measures.

Like Mr Prior Irish ministers are also interested in the idea of sending Sinn Féin party representatives to Coventry. As in Northern Ireland Sinn Féin has been making some headway in the Republic by the diligent pursuit of community politics. In a recent by-election in Dublin Sinn Féin polled 7 per cent of the vote, more than it is accustomed to. The constituency contains some of the slummiest parts of the city and was rife with drug abuse. Sinn Féin set about the drug pedlars with its usual ruthlessness and to good effect. In such ways it wins a local following. Zest for the "armed struggle" can be implanted later. No Sinn Féin candidate has been elected to the Dail in recent years but there are about 25 councillors of that description. A refusal by officials at every level to do business with the party's representatives might limit Sinn Féin's effectiveness and impair its exploitation of community politics.

The discussion in Downing Street will have to concentrate on the position of Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland (although a ban, if that is what it comes to, should be for the whole United Kingdom, it is with reference to Northern Ireland that the proposal should be judged). In the Republic Sinn Féin's advocacy of political violence has a historical potency about it but wins it few friends today; it is electorally negligible, and is presently tainted by the revulsion against the IRA murder of an Irish soldier and policeman. The problem there is to keep the genie in the bottle.

The problem in the North is that the genie is out of the bottle. Sinn Féin mounts a formidable political challenge in the community. A ban in the Republic would be presented and probably accepted as a measure of state security. A ban in Northern Ireland would be more easily challengeable as a political measure, an attempt to silence the voice of the people.

Although the considerations that must weigh with the two governments are not identical Dublin has given a lead to London in two particulars: in its deliberation, making sure of its ground before moving; and in its initial preference for selective measures, directed at the more blatant abuses of Sinn Féin's political cover. The two governments should consult and if possible concert their plans, though it is better for the health of Dr FitzGerald that they not be seen to do so. It was over-evident cooperation with the British in a matter of security that was part of Mr Jack Lynch's undoing.

POVERTY AND THE POLES

The low-key rallies held in Polish cities last Friday are not an indication of growing reconciliation between government and people; they are rather the result of a massive police presence and the constant emphasis by Solidarity leaders on the need for peaceful protest against unworkable policies rather than violent opposition to the regime. It made no sense to commemorate those killed in the price protests of 1970 and the first days of martial law in December 1981 by risking further deaths and injuries.

The threat that police brutality may lead to further bloodshed has not receded, however. Both the underground Solidarity leadership and the government are concerned that the price rises expected in January might provoke violent street demonstrations. General Jaruzelski has attempted to persuade the Poles that they are being consulted by circulating questionnaires, but it seems that most of the answers received so far have been unprintable. Speaking recently to Silesian miners he acknowledged that price rises would cause increased hardship but argued that only by raising production can the fall in living standards be halted; he claimed that the "strike madness" was over.

This is not the message of the underground Solidarity leadership, which maintains that there can be little improvement in the economy while ideology and the preservation of the political system are given higher priority than the people's welfare. Longer working hours, growing poverty, and the squandering of national resources are a result of trying to rule without popular participation.

With a third of the population living below the poverty line and the average wage so low that both parents must work to earn enough for their family's basic necessities, strike action and street demonstrations threaten disaster from the arrest or dismissal of a bread-winner.

Since the imposition of martial law, living standards have dropped by thirty per cent and a further drop is expected next year. The government has blamed Solidarity opposition and Western economic sanctions rather than admit responsibility for its own economic mismanagement. The vast majority of Poles welcomed sanctions as an expression of the West's outrage and a sign of support for their banned trade union. Now, however, Mr Lech Walesa has appealed for the lifting of sanctions. Confirmed in his

status as a genuine representative of Polish aspirations by the mass approval which greeted the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize, he should not be ignored.

The rescheduling of Poland's debt to the West is already under discussion, but a satisfactory outcome depends on the Polish government accepting realistic terms. Humanitarian arguments and the need to support Solidarity now combine in making some relaxation of other sanctions desirable, but in such a way as to encourage more genuine concessions from the regime than have been apparent so far. A Christmas amnesty for the hundreds of political prisoners would be a welcome sign of good faith.

Mr Walesa has already emphasized that there must be no return to the "disastrous" loan process of the 1970s, when borrowed money was squandered by the regime. More conditionality will be necessary in future. Top priority must go to aiding food production. Western broadcasts can make it clear in Poland that the gradual relaxation of sanctions is to help the Poles rather than the regime, and that further economic cooperation is dependent on better treatment of the population.

Just retribution for terrorism

From Mr Denis E. Meehan
Sir, As an Irishman who has lived and worked in London for many years I have often taken your prescription and transported myself in imagination to Belfast, as horrors multiplied there.

But theoretical or imaginative perception of terrorism is somewhat remote from the quiddity of it, which I experienced at Harrods, where I work, on Saturday, I can now no longer find it in me to believe that the agents of such destruction, wanton and random in its effects, are capable of redemption. Reluctantly, for I have been a lifetime opponent of capital punishment, I now believe that terrorists convicted of murder should be executed.

Of course I may be over-reacting, but I would guess that a majority of the thousands of people who were in Harrods on Saturday, both staff and customers, would agree with me.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS E. MEEHAN,
194 Merton Road,
Woodward, SW18
December 19.

From Mrs Aileen Keogan
Sir, As a citizen of this unfortunate country may I thank you for your compassionate editorial today (December 19).

There are so many of us here who suffer, and have suffered, unbearable anguish and despair at the atrocities which are being daily perpetrated in our name. With each new horror it becomes an increasing source of shame to belong to a race which could breed creatures capable of such mind-boggling acts.

Our only hope is that the British people will realize, in time, that together with our agony and sorrow for these dreadful deeds, we must carry the added burden of shame and shared responsibility.

This, I fear, not very coherent, but believe me, it comes from the heart.

Sincerely,
AILEEN KEOGAN,
11 Ballymac Green,
Templeogue,
Dublin 12, Eire.
December 19.

From Mr Richard Meynell
Sir, In the wake of the Harrods bombing, it may be helpful to the IRA to compare what they have in fact achieved by their actions with their declared, or self-evident, objectives.

Their first objective is, by terror, to compel the British Government and people to change their policy. To see that they will in fact have achieved precisely the opposite effect it is only necessary for them to consider the reaction of this people to the last application of terror - Hitler's Blitz - by thugs of equivalent depravity.

Their second objective is to advance the cause of Ireland. They have done the opposite; they have in fact advanced perilously close to that tragic brink where the once fair name of Ireland will, however undeservedly, become synonymous with all that is most vile.

Their third objective is to kill, cripple and inflict agony on as many totally innocent men, women and children - especially children, as evidenced by their deliberate choice of the peak family shopping time - as is in their power. In this objective they have succeeded. In this they can glory and rejoice.

Or can they? Will they not eventually realize that all they have done is to damage their own cause; and then, as they hear in their minds, as they surely will, the

From Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP for Devon South (Official Unionist Party)
Sir, Contrary to Mrs Hanna Quinn's belief (December 20), the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, relating to a Council of Ireland are not "still on the statute book". I am, Sir, yours etc.
J. ENOCH POWELL,
House of Commons,
December 20.

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association
Sir, It is tragic that those of us who have children's welfare at heart should be divided by Sir Bernard Braine's narrow arguments (December 15). We agree that in girls under the age of 16 sexual activity is medically and emotionally undesirable. We agree that where it is occurring it is highly desirable that the parents should be aware of the position so that they can offer the necessary support to the girl. It is therefore irresponsible of Sir Bernard to state that doctors are making contraceptive "readily available" to young girls without parental consent.

The best way of managing the problem is to place no obstacle in the way of such girls seeking medical advice as the doctor will do his best to persuade the girl to agree to the parents being informed; and only in exceptional cases, and where the doctor is satisfied of the capability of the girl to handle the situation, will treatment be given without the parents being informed.

If the law were to provide either that it is illegal to give contraceptive advice and treatment in any circumstances to young girls, or that doctors should be required to inform the parents in such cases, there would be a marked reluctance to seek medical advice, with the consequences of unwanted pregnancies and, at worst, recourse to illegal abortions. An important opportunity would therefore be lost for doctors to help such girls and to persuade them to involve their parents.

It does not assist the resolution of these serious problems for Sir Bernard to suggest that doctors are encouraging promiscuity. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a cause and effect relationship of the kind he implies in his letter, between abortion and illegitimacy statistics and the availability of contraception.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAVARD, Secretary,
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WCI,
December 19.

From Mr Maurice Cowin
Sir, I read with great interest the article written (feature, December 14) by Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley North, on the appalling situation regarding the plight of remand prisoners.

A friend of mine has been in custody, on holding charges only, since early August and has been shovelled around from police cell to police cell, from Barking to Sevenoaks, from Aylesbury to Winchester Hill. The conditions in these cells, which are no way the fault of the police, are similar to those one associates with far darker corners of the world than the Greater London area.

It is almost impossible for his solicitor to arrange his defence due to his constant change of whereabouts, and the pressures on his family are totally unacceptable, bearing in mind that a person is innocent until proved guilty.

Surely magistrates must be made more aware of this disgraceful state of affairs, and surely positive action should be taken now - and not in the near future.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE COWIN,
65 Alder Lodge,
River Gardens,
Stevens Road, SW6,
December 16.

From Mr Giorgio Francesconi
Sir, Far from being an unwelcome development, a British decision to withhold payment to the EEC (your leader, December 16) might help find a final solution to the permanent crisis of the last few years.

The UK would be in breach of EEC laws and, as is likely, the outcome could well be the end of the present Community. This would allow the countries which believe in European principles to form another Community, with which Britain could negotiate a treaty of association.

Yours faithfully,
GIORGIO FRANCESCONI,
283 Westbourne Park Road, W11,
December 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Towards a new gas industry

From Sir Kenneth Hutchison, FRS
Sir, The future of the gas industry is under discussion and decisions may have been taken already behind closed doors at the ministry. Even so I trust that it is not too late to offer some suggestions for consideration about the structure of the industry when it is returned to the private sector.

I write as the one-time chairman of one of the 12 original area gas boards, each of which was an independent and self-accounting body; together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Gas Council we represented the corporate identity of the new gas industry in 1949.

The supply of gas is a natural monopoly and has been recognized as such since the Metropolitan Gas Act of 1860 gave legal force to the many "districting" agreements made between the warring factions who had been laying their mains in the same London streets.

With the grant of monopoly went a right of intervention by the state and an obligation on the companies to supply; nothing much was changed by the Gas Act 1948. What remained was a keen spirit of competition between the area boards, each a monopoly supplier in its own area, headed up by persons of widely different origins, united only in the belief that his was to be the best board, the most enterprising and the most viable financially.

I believe that the gas industry of the future in the private sector can best be structured on the basis of 12 independent area boards, each small enough to be sensitive to the desires of its share of 15 million consumers of gas and large enough to maintain internally an efficient operational and management structure.

Each area board would be free to concentrate its efforts on improvements in service to its consumers while maintaining a sound financial base from which to service the

public issues of loan stock and equity for which it would be individually responsible.

There should be a supply corporation, responsible as the British Gas Corporation is now, for procuring, producing, storing, and in the long term manufacturing, gas, and for maintaining the transmission system by which to deliver gas to terminals in each area board. The terms and conditions of supply and demand should be contractually enforceable.

The corporation, like the area boards, would issue its own loan stock and equity and act in all respects as any other responsible oil company does except for a prior commitment to meet the area boards' demands for gas.

But *quis custodiet?* I will propose that there be established an independent regulatory commission with powers, inter alia, to determine the maximum price of gas sold by the corporation to the area boards and by the boards to the public in their respective areas of supply. There is nothing new in this; from the early days of the gas industry right up to vesting day there have been regulations designed to control the profits of the companies supplying gas. In the USA the state legislatures exercise control by energy commissions or other means.

The commission, as here proposed, would also have responsibility for authorizing the issue of loan stock, and equity when and if that becomes feasible and in the course of its duties would want to examine in depth the efficiency and performance of a board or the corporation.

I do not see why anyone should object to that, if only as the price of freedom.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH HUTCHISON,
2 Arlington Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex,
December 16.

Catching the bus

From Mr Victor Peskett
Sir, You were right to highlight the plight of the people faced with the withdrawal of commercial bus services from 12 Norfolk villages (report, December 9), but perhaps too ready to follow the pessimistic forecast of the bus company's general manager.

No doubt, as he is reported to have said, private operators will find it no more economic than Eastern Counties to run loss-making services. But people can help themselves, as the community buses already operating in Norfolk demonstrate.

During our inquiry into the police forces in the province, which followed the serious fighting in the streets of Belfast in August of this year, the committee of which I was chairman was provided with clear evidence of the presence in Belfast and Derry City of foreign anarchists with no previous connections with the issue of Irish nationalism, whose purpose was none other than to exploit the civil rights movement (in which the IRA were not, at that time, actively involved: vide *Report of the Advisory Committee*, ch 2, paras 21 and 23).

We were shown posters almost identical, except for the language of the text, with some of the inflammatory literature distributed in France during the abortive uprising against the government of General de Gaulle in 1968.

Mr Prior is right. Those who support the IRA in the fallacious case, however sincerely held, that theirs is the way to political unity in Ireland, are in fact aiding and abetting international anarchy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUNT,
Highway Cottage,
Ashton,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
December 19.

Efficiency drive

From Mr C. H. Sisson
Sir, "If the (efficiency) initiative is to survive it must push to get recommendations delivered without losing its bite. The credibility barrier is establishing that good management is not optional. So wrote Ian Beesly, head of the Efficiency Unit (report, December 14).

So many words to say so little! If that is the blue-eyed Under-Secretary of 1983, the only prospect for Whitehall is of less meaning on more paper. Efficiency indeed!

Perhaps there was something to be said for a Literate Civil Service after all.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. SISSON,
Moorfield Cottage,
The Hill,
Langport, Somerset,
December 14.

US-Israel peace plans

From Mr John Stebbing
Sir, Your leading article of December 1 reveals very clearly the significance of the new agreement of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel: it shows also the great importance of an effective revival of the Reagan peace plan.

Unfortunately, the first signs of a new approach to the problems of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are not promising. After his diplomatic success, Mr Shamir's perfunctory undertaking "to have another look at the Reagan peace plan" does not suggest that any strong pressure has been applied to him to secure a realistic reduction in the West Bank settlements.

Unless decisive pressure is applied Mr Shamir's review is likely to be no more than a brief ritual exercise; the West Bank situation would then be unchanged and the prospects of peace for all the peoples of the region soon extinguished.

This view is supported by the conclusions of the extremely competent, and quite independent, Bevanisti group of Israeli researchers in their first report (September, 1982) on the realities of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Writing of land and land use, the group concluded that "The combination of land acquisition, closure of areas for military purposes and land use planning, roads and infrastructure development, has already ensured complete Israeli control over space in the West Bank".

A large proportion of West Bank water resources have been taken over and the research group has listed 1,000 military government measures closely regulating the life of Palestinians in the two occupied territories. The 120 Israeli settlements are planned to have a rural population of 100,000 by 1987; and the West Bank Higher Planning Commission is reported by the research group to have plans for 60,000 housing units for an urban population of 320,000, in eight urban settlements in the West Bank.

What appears to be needed, if a properly autonomous Palestinian administration is to be set up, is a concerted approach by all moderate Arab countries and the countries of the West to persuade the President

of the United States to withdraw American support for this programme; to require Israel to dismantle all except for a negotiated strategic minimum of settlements (perhaps to be held under lease) in exchange for peace within recognized, guaranteed, boundaries which are defensible. It seems likely that every argument and leverage would be needed to achieve this, even including the possible curtailment of oil supplies.

The search for an honourable solution to this problem is exceedingly urgent. It is a matter which should not be put aside because of the presidential election; nor should it be the subject of an ineffective compromise for the sake of electoral advantage.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEBBING,
Fair Beches,
Burcot,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
December 5.

Temptation to meddle

From Mr C. P. Dalton
Sir, I was charmed by the picture of the refurbished platform at Charing Cross Underground station in your issue today (December 14). Waiting for the train could indeed be a pleasure in such surroundings.

But why, I ask, could not London Transport have put the murals on the other side of the track? The intervention of the electrified line might have at least deterred the many amateur artists who through the Underground these days from adding the elements that Botticelli was careful to leave to the imagination.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. DALTON,
Copice,
Kilworth Lane,
Storrington, West Sussex,
December 14.

From Dr. H. R. McKinlay
Sir, The white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) has just completed its autumn migration south through the north Bek'aa Valley, oblivious of terrestrial distractions. Though the Meinertzhagen says that their main route is east of the Anti-Lebanon mountains, flocks of 500 to 2,000 birds flew in at an altitude of 200 metres from the direction of the Lac de Homs, beginning on August 31.

Flying two kilometres east of a large proportion of West Bank water resources have been taken over and the research group has listed 1,000 military government measures closely regulating the life of Palestinians in the two occupied territories. The 120 Israeli settlements are planned to have a rural population of 100,000 by 1987; and the West Bank Higher Planning Commission is reported by the research group to have plans for 60,000 housing units for an urban population of 320,000, in eight urban settlements in the West Bank.

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Middle East auspices

Flocks passed on this route on August 31, September 1, October 5, 12, 20 and finally on October 31, generally between 8.30 and 9.30am. Their only concession to current events is that for the past two years they have not flown over Baalbek.

Yours faithfully,
H. R. MCKINLAY,
Hermil,
Bek'aa Valley,
Lebanon,
November 28.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Merrill Lynch is thundering after Wedd

Earlier this month America's biggest investment brokers, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, submitted an affidavit by Judge Robert Carter, presiding in the Southern District Court of New York. The affidavit throws new light on why Merrill Lynch and the equally eminent Wall Street house, Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb & Co. are suing London's premier stock jobbers, Wedd Durlacher, Mordant for a total of just under \$15m (£10.6m).

The documents trace the operations of Pastor Securities, which have left Wall Street and European institutions with debts well in excess of \$25m (£17.7m). Pastor Securities, an American subsidiary of a Spanish company owned by Peruvians, sold 1.7 million "blue chip" shares it did not own on Wall Street in the expectation that they would fall in price; the shares would then be bought back at a profit.

The shares, in Getty Oil, Motorola and National Semi Conductor (NSM), rose sharply in price leaving Pastor with an open commitment to the American brokers, principally Merrill Lynch, who had acted for Pastor. The company could not supply Merrill with the shares sold on its behalf and to meet its own commitments Merrill had to buy them in at the higher prices prevailing, resulting in Merrill's suffering a net loss of \$12.25 million (£8.7m), and Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb \$2.7m (£1.9m) - a combined total of \$15m.

At about the same time, between August 24 and September 19, Pastor had commissioned Wedd Durlacher to buy through other leading Wall Street brokers 784,400 Motorola, Getty Oil and NSM shares. This was a million shares fewer than Pastor had sold short and none of them found their way to Merrill Lynch or Lehman Brothers. Neither the chief executive of Pastor Securities, Mr Rafael Pastor, nor the shares have been seen since.

Accounts opened

Merrill Lynch is claiming that the president of Wedd's US operations, Mr David Rochester, formerly with Cuzenove and now an employee of Merrill, was doubtful about Mr Pastor's bona fides last June. It is therefore alleged that Wedd "knew or was reckless in disregarding the fact that transactions which were effected by Wedd Durlacher were part of a scheme to defraud Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith and that Wedd Durlacher's participation in the scheme was essential to its fulfilment and, indeed, for such participation by Wedd Durlacher, the scheme could not have been effected."

Wedd strenuously denies the allegation which is basically centered on the evidence afforded by Mr Rochester. The English firm is seeking to have Merrill's case dismissed for being technically incorrect in presentation and because Wedd claims that at no time did it have knowledge that would cause it to suspect the nature of Mr Pastor's stock market trading activities.

The story really began last spring. Mr Pastor opened accounts with both Merrill Lynch and Wedd Durlacher. He then claimed to be a portfolio manager for wealthy European and South American families and an executor of "block" share transactions for major European and South American banks.

From that time until August Mr Pastor's market activities were cloaked by his having major firms deal against each other. In some instances, Merrill claims, he was buying and selling the same shares simultaneously.

The New York Stock Exchange has a five-day account period, at the end of

which time shares sold have to be supplied and those bought paid for. Most brokers will allow an extension of a week or two in special circumstances, but the facility is usually for favoured clients. The 834,300 shares of Getty Oil, 374,900 shares of Motorola and 553,200 shares of National Semi Conductor Pastor had sold were not delivered on time but Merrill agreed to grant an extension.

Pastor said that National Westminster, Lloyds Bank or Manufacturers & Traders Trust would deliver the shares. Merrill waited until September 26 before accepting that it would have to buy the shares in at a loss. Within days Merrill sued Pastor Securities.

Memo sent

It was not until October that Merrill discovered that Pastor had been trading through Wedd Durlacher. Using brokers like Salomon Brothers and Bear Stearns, Wedd, Merrill claims, was able to buy in the same shares at a price substantially below that which would have "otherwise prevailed." Merrill also alleges that Wedd claimed to be acting as principal, dealing for its own account, when, in fact, it was dealing for Pastor.

The basis of Merrill's allegations is a memo Mr Rochester sent to the executive committee of Wedd, dated June 7, 1983. In it, Mr Rochester asks why Pastor was dealing through Wedd when it could have dealt direct. Why pay "high commissions" for the privilege of dealing through WDM? "Pastor does not want to disclose his hand as a large dealer to any US brokerage house."

Mr Rochester also asks whether Pastor had lost money and was laundering it at arm's length from the IRS (Internal Revenue Service); whether Pastor was trading at arm's length from the Securities Exchange Commission, (unlikely); why Pastor was so anxious to keep WDM at arm's length; and why Bankers Trust stopped clearing for Pastor?

Merrill also asked why if, in June, WDM partners and employees had already raised the question of why Pastor was using Wedd and had discussed "various improper and illegal motives that might underlie Pastor's trading through WDM," the jobbers continued to execute large purchase orders on Pastor's behalf?

In Wedd's counter memorandum the jobbers argue that the very existence of the memo proves that they were not aware of any irregularity and in fact the memo "supports an inference exactly opposite to that for which it is tendered by Merrill Lynch."

No comments

Although neither company was prepared to comment yesterday, it is clear that Pastor met his commitments to Wedd: it paid for all the shares that Wedd purchased on its behalf. The fact that WDM was kept at "arm's length" indicates, in Wedd's view, that it was not privy to whatever the Pastor was doing to which Merrill has taken legal exception.

In the normal course of American legal actions of this kind Judge Carter will either dismiss Merrill's action against Wedd, and Merrill sustain the loss; or he won't, in which event an out-of-court settlement would probably be reached.

Whatever the final judgment in the case it is a pity that leading institutions in New York should have their horns locked with London's leading jobber. It might have helped had the Wedd partners agreed to the suggestion from their former senior partner, Mr R. S. Wilkins (now 70 and in as good form as ever) that he should act as a mediator.

Middle East buyers foiled in Kleinwort Benson raid

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

An attempt by unknown Middle East investors to build up a 10 per cent stake in Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale, holding company for one of the City's top merchant banks, fuelled speculation yesterday over the next big development in the financial markets.

Messel & Co, the stockbroker, moved into the market yesterday morning offering up to 38p for shares in Kleinwort, Benson's, 28p above the previous night's closing price. However the share price was stuck as the shares rose quickly above the offer price and Messel is believed to have managed to buy only about 200,000.

The shares closed up 56p at 423p, valuing the bank at £229m. Messel was acting for TWB Investment, a company registered in Netherlands Antilles with a wholly-owned

London subsidiary which manages portfolios for private clients in the Middle East. TWB said yesterday that it owned 2.82 million shares or 5.3 per cent of Kleinwort, Benson but denied that the stake was anything more than an investment.

Mr Philip Watson, a shareholder in TWB said the stake in Kleinwort, Benson had been bought on behalf of a couple of Middle East clients resident in the Gulf who were also shareholders in TWB.

He said the clients wanted an investment in a top quality merchant bank and they had known Kleinwort, Benson for some time. He said there was no intention to make a bid.

Asked whether they would be buying more shares, Mr Watson said: "I have no idea, that depends on my clients. I should think the approach would be

to let the dust settle and see what happens."

At Kleinwort, Benson, Lord Rockley, a director of the merchant bank, took a relaxed view. "We know the people who are behind the purchase of the shares. They are longstanding banking customers", he said.

Lord Rockley said he believed the stake was simply an investment and was not worried about the possibility of a bid. "We are satisfied with their respectability," he added.

He would not be drawn on the bank's plans to cope with the shake-up in the City and financial markets. "We've formulated a lot of ideas and we've never publicly aired them. We'll just have to see how and when they get implemented," Lord Rockley said.

Kleinwort, Benson's, disclosed profits have slipped from £22.9m in 1980 to £20.0m last

year and are likely to be lower again in 1983.

The Bank of England takes a close interest in ownership of merchant banks and in 1972 it issued a notice in effect saying that its permission was required before foreign companies bought more than 15 per cent in a merchant bank.

"It is understood that banks will consult the Bank on all proposals for participations exceeding 15 per cent as early as possible and before any formal negotiations are undertaken; and that they will accept the Bank's ruling in each case and take no irreversible steps in the meantime," the notice said.

Although the Bank might take a more relaxed view in the present climate, it is unlikely that would sanction a contested takeover of a merchant bank.

Panelsets deadline on bid for Eagle Star

By Our Financial Staff

The City Takeover Panel yesterday set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding in Britain's biggest ever takeover battle for Eagle Star Holdings.

The deadline was imposed after a full meeting of the 13-member panel, chaired by Mr Martin Jacob, vice-chairman of Kleinwort Benson.

Mr John Hignett, director general of the panel, had called the meeting in a bid to resolve problems caused by the competing bids from the West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, and BAT Industries.

The panel was forced to announce its deadline and an amendment to its rules because of the unique nature of the bidding. The problems have been caused because the rival bidders have remained in the battle for Eagle Star for so long.

BAT Industries has the highest offer on the table with a 67p per share cash offer valuing Eagle Star at £934m. Allianz has offered 66p per share, which is worth £920m.

Under takeover rules, a bidder is not allowed to revise a takeover offer after the forty-sixth day after posting the last of two competing offers.

However, the panel has amended its rules so that each of the bidders is able to announce details of its final offer on the forty-sixth day (December 30) rather than posting them to shareholders that day.

The panel will police the bids by insisting that it should be given details of any offer at least 30 minutes before they are released to the Stock Exchange. The final date for posting the offer details will be deferred until January 4.

The panel said yesterday that no further exceptional provisions would be over the bid unless more exceptional circumstances arose.

On the stock market, Eagle Star shares rose by 7p to 729p, as dealers anticipated a fresh spate of bidding for Eagle Star. Shares of BAT Industries, which welcomed the decision to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the timing of the bidding, were unchanged at 128p.



US - Italian agreement: Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti chairman (left), with Charles Brown, A T & T chairman (right) and James Olson, A T & T vice-chairman, after announcing their deal in Rome yesterday.

A T & T takes 25% stake in Olivetti

From John Earle, Rome

American Telephone and Telegraph is to take a 25 per cent share in Olivetti, Italy's data processing company, through a \$250m (£183m) issue of Olivetti shares under a wide-ranging industrial and commercial agreement between the two groups.

Signor Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti's chairman, said in Rome yesterday that the deal was "the biggest minority investment ever made by an American company outside the United States."

The two groups will distribute each other's products in their respective markets. Olivetti will supply AT & T, over a 12-month period from mid-1984, with a new Olivetti-designed product - about which no details were given - to an approximate value of \$250m.

The agreement also provides for joint development. AT & T's participation is being arranged through the issue of 100 million new shares. Signor de Benedetti has thus respected assurances, given to the French Government, that shares released by the recent reduction in French holdings (from the 33 per cent stake of Saint Gobain and Bull to the 10 per cent now held by CIT-Alcatel) would not pass into American ownership.

Control of Olivetti will remain in the hands of an Italian-controlled shareholders' syndicate. The Americans have undertaken not to increase their investment in Olivetti for four years.

The American economy is expected to grow at an annual rate of 4.5 per cent in the final quarter of the year, continuing its year-long recovery from the most severe recession since the 1930's, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

Release of the department's preliminary "flash estimate" of the fourth-quarter gross national product marked a day of extremely good economic news for President Reagan, who predicted at this year-end news conference on Tuesday that 1983 would turn out to be a banner year for Americans.

Although the projected figures are sharply lower than the third-quarter growth of 7.6 per cent, they none-the-less represent healthy growth, especially when coupled with the Government's new inflation figures, also released yesterday.

Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house controlled by Lloyds Bank with a minority shareholder, reported a big recovery in profits yesterday. Despite substantially higher bad debt provisions, pretax profits jumped from £12.3m to £22.4m in the year to September 30 and the annual dividend is unchanged at 3.87p net share.

A change in accounting policy for regional development grants on leased assets has boosted profits by £2.3m and the previous year has been restated upwards by £1.6m but Lloyds & Scottish is falling in line with the generally accepted practice.

Lloyds Bank has long wanted to buy out Royal Bank's 39.3 minority stake in the finance house, but has been unable to reach agreement on price. However, on Tuesday Lloyds raised its stake in Royal Bank to 21.3 per cent to strengthen its bargaining position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish.

Lloyds & Scottish is one of Britain's biggest finance houses and is particularly strong in hire purchase. It has been helped by lower interest rates, which averaged 1.6 percentage points less during 1982-83.

The previous year profits were depressed by heavy financing costs of two acquisitions, Bowmaker and Hamilton Leasing. But a £70.5m rights issues this year helped to reduce that burden.

The group's gross assets rose by about a quarter from £2.09 billion to £2.56 billion with much of the growth coming from the consumer side. However, bad debts, up on both the consumer and corporate side, are believed to have risen by more than half.

Judge rules on NCB pension fund

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A High Court ruling yesterday could end the drawn-out dispute over the running of the National Coal Board's £2 billion pension fund.

The ruling, made in chambers during interim proceedings in the Chancery Division by Mr Justice Vinelott and may possibly lead to a full trial. Because of this, lawyers for the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers, the two parties involved, declined to comment and the ruling has not been made public.

The case was brought by the NCB's five trustees on the pension fund to seek permission to go ahead with an investment in a US company. The NUM's five trustees had argued that they needed time to consider the issue, but the court has been told that because of the necessity of a quick decision on the investment a court ruling was required.

The pension fund had wanted to make the investment under its previous strategy which is being continued because the NUM refuses to meet to discuss a new programme.

The fund's trustees have always refused to reveal details of their investment plans because, they say, stock markets could be adversely affected if the fund's intentions were known in advance.

The NUM, using policy decisions by the Trades Union Congress to support its case, argues that it is wrong for the fund to invest in certain overseas companies and in industries which compete with coal.

No details of the investment involved in the High Court case have been released, but it is understood that the non-NUM trustees are anxious to continue the present policy of investing in the US bond market and in oil shares.

The eventual outcome of yesterday's High Court ruling could be that the NUM will change its policy and begin discussions with the other trustees on a new investment strategy.

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Index at 772 peak

The FT Index surged through the important 770 mark yesterday, helped by renewed selective support for leading equities. It closed the day 2.2 points up at an all-time high of 772.0.

Bid speculation produced good gains among the merchant banks and discount houses, where Kleinwort Benson was the subject of an abortive dawn raid. The shares ended the day 56p higher at 423p.

A sterling pound also provided late support for gilts, which, having been unchanged most of the day, closed with rises of about 25p. On the foreign exchanges the pound gained 30 points to close at \$1.4225.

Market report, page 15

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 772.0 up 2.2
 FT All Shares 680.05 up 4.18
 Bankshares 20.005
 Datastream USM Leaders Index 95.5 up 0.4
 New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1248.27 up 6.30
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9717.65 up 89.72
 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 857.56 down 0.97
 Amsterdam: 158.3 up 1.2
 Sydney: AO Index 758.2 up 1.2
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1024.9 up 3.7
 Brussels: General Index 98.36 up 0.18
 Paris: CAC Index 149.7 up 0.5
 Zurich: SKA General Index 310.10 up 2.20

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.4225 up 35pts
 Index 82.3 up 0.4
 DM 3.9450 up 0.0175
 FF 12.08 up 0.0450
 Yen 344.25 down 1.0
DOLLAR
 Index 130.9 up 0.1
 DM 2.7715 up 0.0003
NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.4235
 Dollar DM 2.7687
INTERNATIONAL
 ECU20 573235
 SDRE2 732152

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 9%
 Finance houses base rate 9%
 Discount market loans week fixed 9-8%
 3 month interbank 9%
 3 month interbank 9%
 3 month dollar 10%
 3 month DM 6%
 3 month FF 13%
US rates
 Bank prime rate 11.00
 Fed funds 9%
 Treasury long bond 100%-100%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme IV
 Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)
 am \$378.25 pm \$378.75
 close \$378-378.75 (\$255-255.75)
 New York (latest): \$378.00
 Kruggerand (per coin) \$385-388.50 (\$273-274)
 Sovereigns (new): \$88.25-89.25 (\$82-82.75)
 *Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Retail boom 'to continue into spring'

Britain's retail boom is set to continue at least until next spring according to the results of the latest survey of the distributive trades by the Confederation of British Industry.

The survey, published today, shows there was a widespread increase in sales in November compared with a year earlier. The rise was most marked among retailers, with a smaller increase noted by wholesalers.

A balance of 33 per cent of distributors are optimistic about business conditions over the next three months again with retailers heading the list.

Blue Chip share prices forged ahead in early trading on the New York Exchange with the Dow Jones industrial average rising 7.5 points to 1249. Volume was about 18 million shares in the first 45 minutes of trading.

Fisdec, a new venture capital business set up by Exco International and British and Commonwealth Shipping has invested much of its initial £6m of finance in four companies. Fisdec specializes in financial and information services and technology.

On Pont, one of Northern Ireland's largest industrial companies, is to cut its energy bill by a quarter by converting its internal electricity generating plant in Londonderry from oil to coal, at a cost of £18m.

BSC in £2.4m merger with two producers

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's three main producers of ferrous rolled rings, used mostly for railway wheel tyres, have agreed to a £2.4m compensation plan for the rationalization of the sector under a scheme that will lead to the privatization of another of the British Steel Corporation's activities.

The BSC and the two private companies, Woodhouse and Rixson (Holdings), have agreed outline terms for the combining of their businesses into a new

company to be called United Ring. Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank which put together the proposals, will acquire 12.5 per cent of United Ring shares when the BSC with 75 per cent of the new company worth about £10.5m.

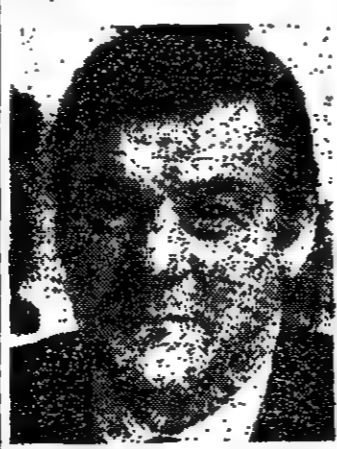
The scheme has been drawn up in response to the continued excess capacity in Britain for rolled rings, which also have applications in turbines and bearing cages.

The deal marks a milestone in BL's recovery programme by completing the sale of its peripheral activities. BL's sales of Alvis, Prestcold, Coventry Climax and other businesses previously raised £53m, which indicates a price tag of about £25m for Aveling.

The group has shed a subsidiary which has been losing money for the past four years. The market for Aveling's dumper trucks, road rollers and grading equipment has declined sharply although losses have been cut in recent years.

Mr Eschallier, a former head of Gulf & Western's mining and resources division and a lawyer, is now chairman of Aveling. He said yesterday that among the priorities would be an expansion of overseas sales.

Mr Brian Hoare, the former



John Hignett: called meeting to resolve bid problems

Proceeds from sales of offshoots reaches £80m

BL sells Aveling to American

By Andrew Cornelius

BL yesterday sold its Aveling Bradford construction equipment subsidiary, which employs 1,100 people at Grantham, Lincolnshire, to Mr Adrian Eschallier, an American entrepreneur.

The car group declined to reveal the price it received for the loss-making business, but indicated that the deal brings to £80m the proceeds from the sale of businesses since its recovery programme was launched in 1981.

Mr Eschallier, a former head of Gulf & Western's mining and resources division and a lawyer, is now chairman of Aveling. He said yesterday that among the priorities would be an expansion of overseas sales.

Mr Brian Hoare, the former

chairman of Aveling, and Mr Roger Lockwood, the managing director, announced their resignations on completion of the sale.

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Mr Eschallier has indicated that there are no immediate plans to reduce the workforce at Grantham, where the company is the largest employer. Since leaving Gulf & Western after four years running 12

mines and five refineries with a turnover \$300m each year Mr Eschallier has worked as a consultant to several companies, while seeking out an opportunity to take over a company.

BL, with the sale of Aveling is able to concentrate on meeting its pledge to begin privatizing parts of the business in the New Year. Jaguar, Land Rover and Unipart remain favourites for early privatization.

BL has reported its first trading profits for four years after an improved performance from its volume cars division, where productivity has jumped by 40 per cent in the past year.

The trading profits of £1.3m in the first half of this year compare with losses of £61.3m in the same period last year.

GOLF

Women are given a big lift out of the rough by sponsors

Britain's women professionals will be playing for almost £400,000 next season - a large increase on the 1983 figure. Even more important, the standard of play should rise considerably as there will be 15 four-round stroke-play tournaments next year compared with only one last season.

The prize money has been increased through Hitachi sponsoring a revival of the British Women's Open with a purse of £140,000 at Woburn next October. But the PGA have virtually doubled other prizes, an excellent achievement considering that the women's circuit was in dire straits when they took over a year ago.

The circuit starts with the Ford Classic at Woburn in May and will go on until the middle of October. It also features a revival of the match-play championship, one Continental event - the Swedish Open - and 16 pro-am tournaments.

Colin Snape, executive director of the women's PGA, said: "The tremendous increase in

prize money in such a short period reflects the growing interest in women's golf throughout Europe. With more competition, the WPGA will continue to expand." Dates and venues:

MAY 2-5: Ford Classic, Woburn (£20,000); 17-20: Claretta Classic, Claretta (£10,000); JUNE 5: McMan's Lager Manchester Classic, Heaton Park (£10,000).

JUNE 6-8: British Open, Old Tom's (£10,000); 13-16: United Friendly Tournament, Hill Barn (£10,000); 20-22: USGA Classic, Farnham (£10,000); 28-JULY 1: Guinness Open, Royal Gurnsey (£10,000).

JULY 12-14: Caldey Classic, Caldey (£7,500); 25-28: J S Law Eastleigh Classic, Fleming Park (£10,000).

AUGUST 2-5: UWSA Friendly Tournament, Southport and Ayr (£12,500); 7-10: White Horse Whisky Challenge, Burnham Beeches (£10,000); 14-17: Cot Cars Jersey Open, Royal Jersey (£10,000); 25-28: Swedish Open, Mollie (£17,500).

SEPTEMBER 12-14: Lorn Stewart Match play Championship, Sudbury (£10,000); 24-27: Sands International, Sunningdale (£10,000).

OCTOBER 3-6: Hitachi British Women's Open, Woburn (£140,000); 10-12: Smirnoff Irish Open, venue to be announced (£10,000).

BOOK REVIEWS

Dreams to sustain us through the dark days

By Conrad Voss Bark

Around this time of the year fishermen ought to be tying flies, varnishing their rods and reading edifying books. There are several kinds of edifying books but those I am thinking of are those you take to bed because they will create dreams of what must be done at all costs in the coming year. An expedition to the Highlands, to the Catskills, to Taupo? A new method of fishing? Perhaps none is likely to happen, but the thought will keep us going through dark days.

The new guide books are of that category evocative of a place, of moods and feelings, as well as being instructive in a Michelin way. A whole chapter will be devoted to one river, or even a pool in one river, with advice on flies and tackle and where and how to finish it, provoking an appetite as well as satisfying one's curiosity about far-distant places.

Three admirable books of this kind have been produced this year; two are anthologies

one edited by David Barr, a peripatetic East Anglian, the other by my wife, and the third invaluable guide is by John Ashley-Cooper, *A Salmon Fisher's Odyssey* (Witherby £14.50). *West Country Fly Fishing* (Batsford, £9.95) is all good Christmas reading except that the Haug guide is poor on lakes. Four fishing classics have been republished by Andre Deutsch, with pleasant laminated covers, at £5.95 each: *Waller Hills's A Summer on the Test*, *Plunkett Greene's Where The Bright Waters Meet*, *Chaytor's Letters To a Salmon Fisher's Son*, and *C. F. Tunncliffe in Tunncliffe's Country* (Clive Holloway Books, £16.95).

BOXING: FORMER CHAMPION'S COMEBACK GOES FORWARD

Hearns wants Leonard rematch

Washington (AP) - Sugar Ray Leonard's first bout in his comeback after a two year lay-off will be against an American welterweight, Kevin Howard, on February 25, according to a WDW-TV report.

The television station says that Leonard will face Howard, who is ranked eighth in the world, on February 25. The revenue has yet to be decided.

Leonard, the former undisputed world welterweight champion, aged 27 was forced to retire after an operation to repair a detached retina. His doctors have assured him that his eye is now completely healed.

Providing that Leonard comes through his warm-up bout successfully, a rematch against the World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight champion, Thomas Hearns, looks likely. But, if the bout against Hearns does take place, Leonard wants championship gloves to be used as a precaution against any further damage to his eye. Whether Leonard would also want to use thumbless gloves against Howard is not known.

Hearns has himself recovered from an injury - to his right hand and is anxious for another bout against Leonard, who is the only man ever to beat him. Hearns attended a press conference in New York on Tuesday, to promote his first title defence - over 12-round, against the Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, despite having to box the final rounds with two dislocated bones.

But Hearns, aged 25, says he is no longer worried by his hand. Neither is he worried about Benitez. "I don't know anything about Benitez, but I know that's the best fighter I've ever fought," he said.

But first, Hearns will have to beat Minichillo, the former European junior middleweight champion, aged 28, who has a record of 42 wins and two defeats. The venue of the bout, which is scheduled for January 27, has not been announced but it is likely to be in Las Vegas.

Hearns will also have to prove



Leonard: doctors say his eye is completely healed

that his feared right hand is now fully operational. Hearns injured his hand when winning the world title a year ago. He achieved a points decision over the Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, despite having to box the final rounds with two dislocated bones.

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Hearns, referring to their 1981 bout for the world welterweight title, said: "I never should have lost that fight." Leonard retained the title when the referee halted the bout in the fourteenth round.

Hearns thinks that Leonard felt the urge to return to the ring after commenting on the recent world middleweight title - bout between Roberto Duran, of Panama, and the American, Marvin Hagler, in Las Vegas.

Hearns said that Hagler, who retained his title by a unanimous points decision, would be an easier opponent that Leonard for him. But he prefers to take on Leonard because he wants a chance of revenge.

Holmes receives £16½m offer

New York (Agencies) Larry Holmes, who resigned his World Boxing Council heavyweight title last week, has been offered an estimated £16½m (\$25m) to meet the South African, Gerrie Coetzee, the World Boxing Association champion, in New York.

The deal was disclosed yesterday by John Condon, the boxing president of Madison Square Garden, where the contest would be held. He said: "We'd put the fight on and take just 60 per cent of the gate. All the rest, the 40 per cent live and all the ancillaries would go to Holmes. We've figured Larry could come out with \$25 million."

Condon and Holmes will reportedly meet within the next few days. Condon added: "Larry told me he's

very interested in everything I told him and the last thing he said to me was, 'I'd like nothing better than to fight in the Garden again.'"

If Condon's proposal is accepted, Holmes would be the Co-promoter of the bout with Madison Square Garden. The last time Holmes, who is 34, boxed in the Garden was June 22, 1979, when he stopped Mike Weaver in the 12th round of a title main.

A contest between Holmes and Coetzee, became a possibility when Holmes was named yesterday among the challengers in December rankings. Gualdo Rivera, the WBA ranking committee's chairman, said: Holmes had specifically asked to be included in the WBA rankings.

Holmes, unbeaten in 45 bouts, gave up his WBC title because he refused to meet an organisation's official challenger, fellow American Bruce Page.

Holmes said he was joining the newly-formed International Boxing Federation, which is attempting to become a third world governing body for the sport.

Koopmans defends

Paris (AP) - The Dutch European heavyweight champion, Rudy Koopmans, will defend his title on January 12 in Marseilles against the French champion, Richard Carmona.

A country town on the doorstep of prize

How Norwich round up prize scalps like Christmas turkeys

It is not every season that you can say "Yippie, I'm off to see Coventry play Norwich," but it was a fixture with something close to Match of the Day status on Saturday. And if the two clubs did only succeed in cancelling each other out in a match showing more bustle than the most out-of-control lady of fashion, the fact remains that both clubs are still serious contenders for one of those treasured places in Europe after that 0-0 draw.

The Coventry salmagundi of incongruous elements mixed into a harmonious whole is one of the mainstays of the season. What is surprising about Norwich is not their healthy place in the first division (seventh before Saturday's match) but the fact that they are in the first division at all.

Norwich are the top division's perennial underdogs. Football is a big city game. Norwich is a country town with a big cathedral. At this time of year Norfolk is a place more readily associated with increasingly nervous turkeys than with increasingly confident footballers.

But it seems that never a season goes by without the collection of a few prize scalps by the Chingachunks of Carrow Road. If Watford amazed last season, and Coventry continue to amaze this, Norwich manage to find an amazing Saturday or three every season. True, they spent much of last season walking to heel behind the relegation dog-catcher and only jumped clear at the moment he swung his net, but they also did the double over Liverpool. At Norwich surprises are part of the routine.

The theory used to be that it was the genius of the former manager John Bond, and his talent for spreading out much Marmite on an awful lot of toast, that allowed Norwich to cling on to their improbable position in the first division. When Bond upped and went to Manchester City in October 1980, leaving Ken Brown, his No 2 in charge, it seemed unlikely that the usual seasonal miracle of staying up could ever be worked again.

"I've got a different approach to John Bond," Brown said. "He can be very, very demanding of players, and very frightening. I prefer to let players take responsibility for themselves, to enjoy themselves in a responsible, not a sloppy, kind of way. John was the kind of man who used to take the worries of management home with him every Sunday. I vowed I would never do that. But beyond that there were no special problems in taking over. I had always worked closely with John and know as much about the players as he did."

However, Brown's first trick as manager was to drop through the trapdoor to the second division, where you would expect the club they were back up again. "It was a real nail-biter that last match in our promotion season. We needed a draw at Sheffield Wednesday, but they scored a winner in injury time. Then the result from Leicester came through, and we were up anyway."

Brown's dealings on the transfer market mostly spring from the sale of Justin Fashanu to Nottingham Forest for £1m; the days of million-pound

transfers seem so remote these days that we might be talking of transfer fees for Achilles and Hector. Fashanu provided cash for three £200,000 signings for Chris Woods, the goalkeeper, John Deehan and Keith Beaschin.

"We are a small club with a small squad of players, but I'm lucky with players who function in different positions," Brown says. "We have strength in depth through versatility and there are virtues in smallness with a closer-knit group of players. We operate a maximum wage here, 100, and players who don't like it can go."

Being a football manager Brown expressed no surprise whatsoever in finding his team in so unexpected a high position after their six successive victories and one defeat in a run of 17 games. "I started with the last dozen or so games last season when we got ourselves out of trouble. I got the team in the season at the beginning of the season, you can check this - that we had the ability to win a place in Europe. I don't think we're good enough."

As the rumblings about a kind of intercity super league continue, it is pleasant to be reminded that incongruity is one of the most enjoyable elements in English football, not just in cup competitions, but also in the League, where we have such inter-city size wars as Manchester City, Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday trying to break out of the second division while the Norwich bumpkin are hanging on in there just seven points behind Liverpool.

Simon Barnes

IN BRIEF

McKeever turns his back on Bolton

Richard Whitchello, of Kent, is the top seed for the court boys' National League, sponsored by Prudential, at Queen's Club, London, from January 2 to 7. Seeded to meet Whitchello in the final is his doubles partner, Ben Knapp, of Gloucestershire. Sarah Longbottom, of Yorkshire, is No 1 seed for the girls' event.

Bolton have not won a match this season and their promoter, Keith Knight, said: "It will be difficult finding a replacement at this stage of the season to save off relegation."

TENNIS: Jo Durie, Britain's No 1 woman player, is planning to rest for a month after a successful year in which she has won 16 places in the computer world rankings to eighth. Miss Durie is optimistic that the next list will put her at No 6.

David de Miguel, of Spain, eliminated John McEneaney's young brother, Patrick, 6-1, 6-2 in the second round of the Orange Bowl under-18 tournament in Miami on Tuesday. McEneaney, a semi-finalist at the Wimbledon junior championships earlier this year, was the third seed.

GOLF: Ted Dexter, the former England cricket captain, faces a difficult start to his defence of the

President's Putter at Rye next month. He has been drawn against Alex Aldrich-Blake, the best finalist in 1980, in the first round of the tournament, which is organized by the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society.

OLYMPIC GAMES: The Japanese Olympic Committee want to stage the 1990 Olympic Congress in Tokyo. The last Olympic Congress was held in Baden-Baden, W. Germany, in 1981.

TABLE TENNIS - The Asia Table Tennis Union are to propose a championship involving players from European and Asian countries. The Union's executive committee, meeting in Bahrain during the first Asian junior championships, decided to approach European authorities with its proposal.

1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		2026-27		2027-28		2028-29		2029-30		2030-31		2031-32		2032-33		2033-34		2034-35		2035-36		2036-37		2037-38		2038-39		2039-40		2040-41		2041-42		2042-43		2043-44		2044-45		2045-46		2046-47		2047-48		2048-49		2049-50		2050-51		2051-52		2052-53		2053-54		2054-55		2055-56		2056-57		2057-58		2058-59		2059-60		2060-61		2061-62		2062-63		2063-64		2064-65		2065-66		2066-67		2067-68		2068-69		2069-70		2070-71		2071-72		2072-73		2073-74		2074-75		2075-76		2076-77		2077-78		2078-79		2079-80		2080-81		2081-82		2082-83		2083-84		2084-85		2085-86		2086-87		2087-88		2088-89		2089-90		2090-91		2091-92		2092-93		2093-94		2094-95		2095-96		2096-97		2097-98		2098-99		2099-00		2100-01		2101-02		2102-03		2103-04		2104-05		2105-06		2106-07		2107-08		2108-09		2109-10		2110-11		2111-12		2112-13		2113-14		2114-15		2115-16		2116-17		2117-18		2118-19		2119-20		2120-21		2121-22		2122-23		2123-24		2124-25		2125-26		2126-27		2127-28		2128-29		2129-30		2130-31		2131-32		2132-33		2133-34		2134-35		2135-36		2136-37		2137-38		2138-39		2139-40		2140-41		2141-42		2142-43		2143-44		2144-45		2145-46		2146-47		2147-48		2148-49		2149-50		2150-51		2151-52		2152-53		2153-54		2154-55		2155-56		2156-57		2157-58		2158-59		2159-60		2160-61		2161-62		2162-63		2163-64		2164-65		2165-66		2166-67		2167-68		2168-69		2169-70		2170-71		2171-72		2172-73		2173-74		2174-75		2175-76		2176-77		2177-78		2178-79		2179-80		2180-81		2181-82		2182-83		2183-84		2184-85		2185-86		2186-87		2187-88		2188-89		2189-90		2190-91		2191-92		2192-93		2193-94		2194-95		2195-96		2196-97		2197-98		2198-99		2199-00		2200-01		2201-02		2202-03		2203-04		2204-05		2205-06		2206-07		2207-08		2208-09		2209-10		2210-11		2211-12		2212-13		2213-14		2214-15		2215-16		2216-17		2217-18		2218-19		2219-20		2220-21		2221-22		2222-23		2223-24		2224-25		2225-26		2226-27		2227-28		2228-29		2229-30		2230-31		2231-32		2232-33		2233-34		2234-35		2235-36		2236-37		2237-38		2238-39		2239-40		2240-41		2241-42		2242-43		2243-44		2244-45		2245-46		2246-47		2247-48		2248-49		2249-50		2250-51		2251-52		2252-53		2253-54		2254-55		2255-56		2256-57		2257-58		2258-59		2259-60		2260-61		2261-62		2262-63		2263-64		2264-65		2265-66		2266-67		2267-68		2268-69		2269-70		2270-71		2271-72		2272-73		2273-74		2274-75		2275-76		2276-77		2277-78		2278-79		2279-80		2280-81		2281-82		2282-83		2283-84		2284-85		2285-86		2286-87		2287-88		2288-89		2289-90		2290-91		2291-92		2292-93		2293-94		2294-95		2295-96		2296-97		2297-98		2298-99		2299-00		2300-01		2301-02		2302-03		2303-04		2304-05		2305-06		2306-07		2307-08		2308-09		2309-10		2310-11		2311-12		2312-13		2313-14		2314-15		2315-16		2316-17		2317-18		2318-19		2319-20		2320-21		2321-22		2322-23		2323-24		2324-25		2325-26		2326-27		2327-28		2328-29		2329-30		2330-31		2331-32		2332-33		2333-34		2334-35		2335-36		2336-37		2337-38		2338-39		2339-40		2340-41		2341-42		2342-43		2343-44		2344-45		2345-46		2346-47		2347-48		2348-49		2349-50		2350-51		2351-52		2352-53		2353-54		2354-55		2355-56		2356-57		2357-58		2358-59		2359-60		2360-61		2361-62		2362-63		2363-64		2364-65		2365-66		2366-67		2367-68		2368-69		2369-70		2370-71		2371-72		2372-73		2373-74		2374-75		2375-76		2376-77		2377-78		2378-79		2379-80		2380-81		2381-82		2382-83		2383-84		2384-85		2385-86		2386-87		2387-88		2388-89		2389-90		2390-91		2391-92		2392-93		2393-94		2394-95		2395-96		2396-97		2397-98		2398-99		2399-00		2400-01		2401-02		2402-03		2403-04		2404-05		2405-06		2406-07		2407-08		2408-09		2409-10		2410-11		2411-12		2412-13		2413-14		2414-15		2415-16		2416-17		2417-18		2418-19		2419-20		2420-21		2421-22		2422-23		2423-24		2424-25		2425-26		2426-27		2427-28		2428-29		2429-30		2430-31		2431-32		2432-33		2433-34		2434-35		2435-36		2436-37		2437-38		2438-39		2439-40		2440-41		2441-42		2442-43		2443-44		2444-45		2445-46		2446-47		2447-48		2448-49		2449-50		2450-51		2451-52		2452-53		2453-54		2454-55		2455-56		2456-57		2457-58		2458-59		2459-60		2460-61		2461-62		2462-63		2463-64		2464-65		2465-66		2466-67		2467-68		2468-69		2469-70		2470-71		2471-72		2472-73		2473-74		2474-75		2475-76		2476-77		2477-78		2478-79		2479-80		2480-81		2481-82		2482-83		2483-84		2484-85		2485-86		2486-87		2487-88		2488-89		2489-90		2490-91		2491-92		2492-93		2493-94		2494-95		2495-96		2496-97		2497-98		2498-99		2499-00		2500-01		2501-02		2502-03		2503-04		2504-05		2505-06		2506-07		2507-08		2508-09		2509-10		2510-11		2511-12		2512-13		2513-14		2514-15		2515-16		2516-17		2517-18		2518-19		2519-20		2520-21		2521-22		2522-23		2523-24		2524-25		2525-26		2526-27		2527-28		2528-29		2529-30		2530-31		2531-32		2532-33		2533-34		2534-35		2535-36		2536-37		2537-38		2538-39		2539-40		2540-41		2541-42		2542-43		2543-44		2544-45		2545-46		2546-47		2547-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THE ARTS

Michael Darlow has fought his way out of television type-casting to direct his first feature film, *Accounts*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight. Interview by David Robinson

Emotional self-discovery

Accounts, which is to be shown on Channel 4 tonight, is Michael Darlow's first feature film, though in fact he very nearly emerged as a feature director three years ago. At the end of 1980 he began work on *The Desert King*, the story of the Saudi of Saudi Arabia, at the time that Islamic politics contributed to various factors which halted the production, something in the region of a million pounds - certainly upwards of twice the budget of *Accounts* - had already been spent. "It's a pity it didn't come to anything. It really could have been exciting. It was a wonderful script by Franco Solinas, who wrote *The Battle of Algiers*."

Darlow began his career in the theatre as an actor and producer. His first film was more or less accidental. His mother was active with World Refugee Year, and when a film promised by the Bank Organisation, founded, she told her son: "You're a producer, why don't you make a film?" The result was called *All These People* and was successful enough to encourage him to collaborate with the late Robert Vase on a documentary about the demolition of the old Marlborough Music Hall. On the strength of this, John Boorman, who was then producing for television in Bristol, invited him to work there.

The major influence, though, was working with Denis Mitchell at Granada. "I idolized him. It was people like Humphrey Jennings and Denis, who could find the intrinsic quality in people and things, who really interested me. What was happening in documentary was then so different from British film. It was the mid-Sixties." Darlow's career was further boosted when his series *Cities at War* won a BAFTA award.

"The problem in television is that you get typed. I was now typed as a documentary director. The BBC asked me to direct Terence Rattigan's obituary - he was still alive then; after he died I wrote a book about him, in collaboration with Gillian Hodson. They expected me to work on film and were surprised when I chose to work on tape. I made that decision because it seemed to me to suit the play extracts we used better. They seem more theatrical. So after that I was again typed as a tape director rather than a film director. Still I was able to do some interesting things on tape - *Crime and Punishment*, and *Suez 1956* which at least had the merit of being the longest play the BBC had made till that time. But several ideas I had for feature films came to nothing. And I didn't want to make just any film, merely for the sake of making a film.

"So then there was *The Desert King*, and, finally, *Accounts*. Michael Wilcox had originally written the play for the Traverse Theatre for the 1981 Edinburgh Festival. It came to London to the Riverside, and won the George Devine Award, though it didn't get wonderful audiences. I instantly wanted to turn it into a film. It is about a lot of things I have wanted to make a film about. Moreover I had always wanted to work up there in the North, ideally on a hill farm like the one in the film. It is amazing country, around the Cheviots. They have their own extraordinary light.

"The play has the quality of exploring very tender emotions in a context which makes concessions at all to sentimentality. I suppose in a word it is



Robert Smeaton (left) and Michael McNally, with Elspeth Charlton as their mother

about maturity, or finding maturity. Michael Wilcox lives and works in rural Northumberland, at Hahawhite. He had been very struck by the phenomenon of country boys, often very inexperienced, who have to shoulder enormous financial responsibilities - because farming can be a very dangerous business, with implications and consequences much huger than many of us ever have to encounter. And beyond this Michael's play explores the nature of finding emotional maturity, of standing up and discovering who you are - and exploring it in a context where it is perhaps unexpected or at least unfamiliar. For a lot of us rural life is represented by *The Archers*, perhaps; but in *The Archers* emotions are very simple.

"The boys in the film and their mother - uprooted as a result of the father's death - have to discover who they are, have to learn to live together and how their relationships work, have to learn their sexual directions, have to learn to respect each other. Above all they have to learn to express themselves. It's all part of growing towards maturity. At the start of the film they are like puppies from one litter - they even sleep in the same bed. At the end they are starting to grow up.

"One of the great qualities of the play is that you cannot identify single motives. The characters are full of conflicting motives and emotions. It is a real human complexity. Michael Wilcox writes wonderfully about adolescence. He was a teacher, and his own adolescence was very important to him. He is tremendous with kids, too. He is a great sportsman. He plays for the

local team and is very much a part of the local scene. You might wonder at the scene where the two boys write poetry. I can only say that Michael gets the local kids in Hahawhite writing poetry and doing their own plays.

"The only member of the original stage cast still remaining in the film is Anthony Roper, who plays the trainer. Of course the film must stand or fall by the two boys. The original stage actors were too old to be right for the film. We went through all the professional Northumbrian actors without success. Then Michael Wilcox suggested Bob Smeaton, who was the lead singer with a successful Newcastle group, White Heat. Michael had seen him introducing a magazine show on local television. Michael McNally, who plays the younger brother, comes from a family that does a club act in the north. He is the 'serious' one: he's doing a law degree at the Tech.

"Once they were cast, we sent them off to the farm for a couple of weeks and told the farmer to make them work with the animals and everything.

They adapted to it all marvelously. We explained to them that they were going to belong to us body and soul for the duration of the shooting period, which had to extend over the four seasons of the year; and that they would have to learn to do all the farm work properly. But, by God, they worked - they really worked!

"Of course we rewrote the stage play, eliminating a lot and introducing a lot more that was not in the original. The writing process went on while we were shooting, as we discovered the things we needed. There was an element of *Day for Night* - but not too much. Occasionally we asked the boys to improvise, mostly in the scenes with the animals, and in a sequence in the pub where Bob asks some local lads where he can find girls in Kelsa. As we continued the boys became very confident about this. Of course we did not try it at first; at the beginning it would have been too difficult for them. But with time they learnt to relax, which is the great thing for an actor.

"The biggest problems with non-professional actors come when they have to play a sub-

Oliver Aldwych

Evoking the whole of mid-Victorian London, but never seeking to deceive the spectator into believing he is looking at anything other than a stage. Sean Kenny's set for *Oliver!* was instantly recognized as the work of a great designer. With the passage of time, those weathered timbers, revolving into grimy alleyways and fog-bound river prospects, have also taken on the quality of an altar to theatrical integrity, and the only recommendation Peter Coe's revived production needs is that it lives up to the set.

This is the Dickens of desolation, underworld squalor and the nightmare face at the bedroom window; and pretty well obliterating the Dickens of saccharine virtue and kindly old gentlemen dispensing free soup.

The dramatic justification of Lionel Bart's music (and, however good the numbers are in themselves, they are vastly better in context) is that it saves the story from becoming unbearable, and gives the wretched of the earth the chance to stand up for themselves. Down comes the grim portcullis inscribed "God is Love" in the opening scene, but even before the great lighted out, the starving waifs have cast pathetic glances at the audience and are roaring their great hymn to "Food".

The central event of the show is Ron Moody's return to his

Theatre

original role as Fagin. Brought up on the villainous kitchen idea of the thievish Jew, this performance was a revelation to me.

Without omitting a particle of Fagin's guile and repulsive vigilance, Mr Moody - fingers and eyes dancing - also projects his real affection for the boys, his self-respect as an artist, crime, and his capacity for self-mockery. Rejuvenated from the Dickensian dock, he finally takes rapid flight into the night shadows of London Bridge - a fitting end for a performance that converts him from an anti-Semitic stereotype into an emblem of Jewish survival. Once seen never forgotten.

There are no weak links in the supporting company. David Garlick's Dodger sustains his unflappable toff routine from the moment he first rolls down his one tattered sock. Jackie Marks's Nancy, vocally well in command of her ballads as well as rollicking choruses at the Three Cripples, also looks well on the way to ruin, doped up the eyes and gaily attached to Lina Hal. Quietly murderous Sykes is totally credible. And Anthony Pearson's Oliver treads a perfectly judged path between mischief and virtue.

The orchestrations, repeatedly picking up numbers and putting them through atmospheric modulations, beautifully complement the continual transformations of the plot.

Irving Wardle

Special Occasions Ambassadors

Coinciding nicely with a lead letter in this newspaper about the marked effect on children if divorced parents manage to go on cooperating, Bernard Slade's two-hander comedy considers the effect of post-divorce meetings on the parents themselves. Repeating the format of his earlier *Same Time, Next Year* - successive dialogues spread over a number of years - it takes the temperature of the couple's relationship at inter-

vals, watching their liaisons with other partners come and go. As a rule, they meet only for births, remarriages, deaths, and other events: hence the title.

John Alderton and Jan Waters first appear in ironic vein at their film debut, every party that just gets ahead of the divorce. (Actually, Mr Alderton had come out before the curtain to explain that his bad back went again at the last preview and would we understand?) She is starting to drink, clearly headed for disasters and cures. He, doing well in television, gets his subsequent ups and downs in the shape of being fired, starting as a freelance playwright (shades of Slade's *Romantic Comedy*), failing and eventually succeeding. The children's fortunes flicker just as predictably: the handsome son gets caught in a burning sports car, the Chopinist daughter ends in the pop world and the youngest provides an illegitimate grandchild at the age of 17.

Except in the final reconciliation, tendency is less intrusive than usual, but a glossy layer still overlays the many emotional insights of character; this is commercial comedy which (unlike Ayckbourn) takes no real risks. The laugh-lines are neither painful nor witty enough. And the repeated device of implying a *mise-en-scene* for a sequence only to overturn it by showing someone is play-acting makes it more contrived still.

Mr Alderton is less happily cast as the "complacently vulnerable" Michael than Miss Waters's Amy, who hides insecurity beneath icy poise and practicality. The author himself directs.

Peter Ackroyd

Anthony Masters

Dance

Dash Dominion

I wish I could be more enthusiastic about the latest version of Wayne Sleep's *Dash*, which opened this week for a short season at the Dominion.

The original show was launched three years ago, and, although it was by no means perfect, it had a genuine freshness and energy, and some very good ideas. It still has some good ideas, but the best of them are the originals: the tap dancing cygnets, the classical *pas de deux* which lets you hear the dancer's real thoughts, and even these could now benefit from some severe editing.

Sleep's impersonations, too, are becoming rather over-familiar, although, cut to a minimum, and presented as part of a *Winter Olympics* sequence, which mysteriously includes lawn tennis and American football, they do well enough.

New additions are a "Come Dancing" number, which has distinct possibilities but lacks

the inhuman precision of the genuine article, and a best-forgotten song, "My name is Bill", in which Sleep apparently represents a very famous baby. He is also responsible for most of the choreography, more varied in style than before, but not especially distinguished. The exceptions are a short piece by Derek Deane and a spectacular adagio number danced by a guest couple, D'Valda and Sirico.

There are the makings of a good show here, but hidden under a multitude of indifferent costumes, a spectacular though not very subtle lighting plot, and run-of-the-mill music, not helped by either the sound system or possibly the acoustic.

Sleep himself is a remarkable entertainer, and has excellent support, notably from Jane Darline. But *Dash* currently needs the eye of a tough Broadway producer if it is to be more of an evening on the town and less like a night at home in front of the television.

Judith Cruickshank

Concert

BBCSO/Atherton Festival Hall/Radio 3

The second instalment in the Ravel/Varese Festival was rather like the first. We had exchanged the Queen Elizabeth for the Festival Hall, and the London Sinfonietta for the BBC Symphony Orchestra, in order to hear the biggest blockbusters of both composers - but again Paul Crossley was on hand to give a nimble and searching account of a Ravel concerto (this time the one for left hand), and again David Atherton was proving how far clarity of sound and determination of rhythm can go in the interpretation of two composers so spily contrasted. Again too, Ravel was shown to be quite as odd and dangerous a character as his revolutionary fellow.

To discover a malevolent savagery in the minimalist *Bolero* is perhaps nothing new but Mr Atherton also found deeper undercurrents in the *Rapsodie Espagnole* which normally passes for a set of

luridly coloured postcards. We tend to forget that Ravel's Spain was not Benidorm and de-natured flamenco. It was a Spain of the imagination, and most particularly of the literary imagination: hence the rightness of a performance that began like a sequence of serenades outside a house where *Don Juan* is at large. The work was still terribly discreet but it certainly knew what it was being discreet about.

In part it must be said this was due to a very physical quality in the playing, a sense of the sometimes flat flesh behind the sounds. And, not surprisingly, that was most prominent when the sounds were most odd: the strangled, double-harmonies of the *Rapsodie*, for instance, were disconcerting, and the opening of the concerto, with double bassoon sounding its lugubrious theme over unfathomably low strings, was almost comic. That was surely not right. Even Ravel's strangest sonorities ought to appear sublimely beautiful and well-mannered, like the dandy

demeanour that covered the still impenetrable secrets of the private life.

Varese's music is a lot more tolerant of struggles and failings, for a certain rude energy is very much part of a work like his *Ameriques*. Requiring a colossal orchestra, which it leads towards a march of terrifying single-mindedness and nearly insupportable volume, this work of 1921 was Varese's celebration too of the new world he had opened for music.

A performance of powerful detail made both points forcibly. There were the city sounds, of siren, jazz trumpet and mindless, massive machine rhythm, but there was also the magnificence of a creative imagination making sense of what is incoherent, even chaotic. For noisiness in Varese needs only sympathetic performance and an unprejudiced ear to make it a further extension of human intelligence and beauty.

Paul Griffiths

Television Fictional facts

Q.E.D. (BBC 1) posed the question *Eyewitness Evidence... Fact or Fiction?* which rather missed the point: the bald distinction between fact and fiction is not helpful, since we tend to rely upon interpretations of visual material which are sometimes afforded the status of facts. In that respect, this analysis of "eyewitness evidence" was oblique from the start: ever since the days of religious apparitions, eyes have been known to see differently.

There was in last night's documentary a great deal of what is called "investigation" into the subject - although the film-makers had clearly not taken to heart their own commentary which insisted that "the suggestion of just one word can make us remember something that never happened". In this case, "investigation" might lead a bewildered viewer to believe that the commentator Anthony Clare had informed

him of something which he did not already know: "He had an Irish accent, officer, but he moved so quickly I never saw his face".

Q.E.D. is very much in the tradition of popular knowledge as exemplified in the "Just Fancy That!" comic strips of the newspapers. In last night's episode there were tests involving the public and dramatized "scenes" involving actors; but it was, essentially, an undramatic glimpse of the obvious. Psychologists, always in large supply on such occasions, were quite happy to give their own opinions on the subject, although they were not a great deal of help. In fact the contradictions between their analyses suggested that "expert witnesses" was no more reliable than that of "eyewitnesses" themselves. We were, in other words, left in the dark.

Peter Ackroyd

Anthony Masters

Divisional Court

Prisoner is entitled to go direct to solicitor

Regina v Governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Ex parte Anderson
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann
[Judgment delivered December 21]

The prohibition on a visit by a legal adviser, made under Standing Order 5A issued through Rule 33 of the Prison Rules (SI 1964 No 388) to advise on a prisoner's complaints about prison treatment in regard to contemplated litigation prior to the lodging of an internal complaint with the prison authorities (the simultaneous lodging of a rule) was *ultra vires*, and a prisoner was entitled to correspond with his legal adviser in regard to the contemplated litigation without first lodging a complaint through the internal disciplinary procedures of the prison.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an application for judicial review by James Anderson against the decision of the assistant governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison on July 13, 1983, to refuse to allow the applicant to consult his legal adviser, Miss Akster, an articulated clerk of the firm of B. M. Birnberg & Co.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the applicant; Mr Simon D. Brown for the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving the judgment of the court, said that on June 16, 1983, there was a disturbance at Wormwood Scrubs Prison between inmates and officers as a result of which the applicant was charged with six offences against prison discipline.

Miss Akster was asked to advise the applicant in connection with possible civil proceedings alleging assault by one or more officers during the disturbance.

She was refused permission to see the applicant on July 14 by the assistant governor because he thought the applicant was intending to make allegations against prison

officers' conduct and the standing orders issued by the Home Office required that an internal complaint be initiated first. The Home Office confirmed that decision and there had been no interview yet between the applicant and his solicitors on that matter.

His Lordship said that it was plain that the problem was the relationship between the internal investigation within a prison of a matter giving rise to an allegation by an inmate against a member of the prison staff, and the right of an inmate to pursue his complaint by a civil action against a member of staff.

Mr Fitzgerald submitted that unimpeded access to a solicitor so as to initiate civil proceedings in the courts was an inseparable part of the right of access to the courts themselves. Therefore the simultaneous ventilation rule was an impediment since it required a complainant to write to the prison governor first, thereby exposing himself to the possibility of being charged with making a false and malicious allegation against a member of the prison staff.

Mr Brown submitted there was no absolute principle that such an impediment was *ultra vires*. The question was one of balance. The rule merely regulated the circumstances in which inmates had access to solicitors, and was in the interests of good administration of prisons and discipline and control of their inmates.

His Lordship said that it was proper for there to be regulations to control the access of prisoners to solicitors. But it was clear from the case of *Raymond v Honey* ([1983] AC 1) that a prisoner's right of access to a solicitor to institute proceedings should be unimpeded in the same way as his right to begin proceedings by sending essential documents for that purpose was unimpeded.

In this case the applicant's request to see a solicitor was an inseparable part of his right of access to the courts themselves. The rule was an impediment since it required him to do something which otherwise he could not be required to do. No inmate could be compelled to make an internal complaint against a member of the prison staff.

The requirement that an inmate should make such a complaint as a prerequisite of his having access to his solicitor went beyond the regulation of the circumstances in which such access could take place

and constituted an impediment to his right of access to the civil court. Therefore the relevant provisions of the standing orders were *ultra vires*.

Mr Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co. Treasury Solicitor.

Order not upset by remarriage

Jenkins v Liversay (formerly Jenkins)
Before Sir John Arnold, President and Mrs Justice Heilbrunn
[Judgment delivered December 21]

The Court of Appeal in relation to set aside a consent order by which the former husband transferred his half-share in the former matrimonial home to the wife on her agreement to give up her right to periodical payment gave him leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The consent order had been made by Mr Registrar Carder on September 2, 1982 which embodied an agreement made between the parties on or about June 22, 1982. The wife had remarried on September 24, 1982 and the husband had not learned of her remarriage until October 31, 1982. Judge Cox had dismissed an appeal from the registrar's order on May 5, 1983.

Mr A. C. Myer for the husband; Mrs Jean H. Ritchie for the wife.

THE PRESIDENT, giving the judgment of the court, said that following the dissolution of the marriage a consent order had been made by the registrar which embodied the terms of an agreement made between the parties on or about June 22, 1982. The order provided that the husband would transfer to the wife his interest in the former matrimonial home which belonged to the spouses in equal shares and all claims of the husband and wife against each other for periodical payments would be dismissed.

On September 24, 1982 the wife remarried. The husband sought to have the consent order set aside on two alternative grounds: first that the wife should have informed him of her intention to remarry before the making of the consent order; second, the fact of remarriage after the making of the consent order.

Law Report December 22 1983

The legal rights of the parties derived from the order and a consent order could be set aside on appeal in the same way as any other order.

Available grounds in addition to fraud and mistake included a material failure to comply with the obligation of disclosure in *Thorne v Motorists* ([1982] Fam 1, 8). Looking at the letters which passed between the respective solicitors no agreement could be implied that the husband would disclose his full financial position on the basis of full disclosure. There was no failure on the part of the wife to comply with an obligation to disclose her financial position. There was no essential difference between the present case and the case of *Wales v Wiliam* ([1977] 1 WLR 199).

It had been argued that where the effect of an order made in the matrimonial jurisdiction was substantially altered by an event supervening after it had been made the order could be set aside and a new order substituted which would be fair.

In *Alinton v Alinton* ([1979] AC 593, 601) Lord Fraser of Tullylloch said: "But it is easy to envisage an exceptional case in which a totally unforeseeable change in the circumstances of one of the former spouses occurs soon after a final court order has been made disposing of the financial issues between them. Such a change might render the order so inappropriate as to appear harsh and unjust... To cover such exceptional cases it would, in my view, be desirable that the jurisdiction of the court to vary any order should invariably be preserved as a matter of general law... But I do not think that the legislation as it stands is capable of being construed so as to lead to the result that I regard as preferable". The legislation had not been altered.

The statement of Lord Fraser did not impinge upon the principle illustrated by *Carson v James* ([1965] 1 WLR 748) that when court of first instance had to speculate about an unascertained matter which was resolved by the happening of a later event which occurred before the time limited for an appeal had elapsed, the appellate court would take account of the later ascertainment.

The event of remarriage occurred long after the time so limited for an appeal from the consent order. Accordingly the inability of the court to interfere as referred to by Lord Fraser operated to the fullest

extent. The second ground of appeal failed.

It was unrealistic to regard the question whether the wife would remarry as being before the registrar by reason of his duty to consider whether to give or withhold his sanction and approval of the agreement. The registrar had given his approval and had embodied it in the consent order with no representation before him and no knowledge of the facts. The registrar only had a minimal amount of information which could be inferred from the contents of the application.

The court had been informed that it was a common practice in exercising their function, to give or withhold approval, registrars would rely on the circumstance that the joint application was made by the parties and that they were well acquainted and also that such firms would not put forward agreements to be approved unless they were fit to be approved.

An attendance before the registrar was necessary to enable answers to be given to any queries that he might have in the course of the exercise of the jurisdiction.

Solicitors: G & I Chisholm, Bodmin; Bond Pearce & Co. Liskeard.

No privilege against self incrimination

Universal City Studios Inc and Others v Habbard and Others
Before Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Lord Justice Fox
[Judgment delivered December 21]

A defendant who sought to have an Anton Piller (search and seize) order set aside and seized documents returned to him on the ground that there was a serious risk of his being required to incriminate himself in answering questions about the documents including seized video tapes in that such answers might have indicated an involvement in the manufacture and distribution of pornographic films, was barred from claiming such privilege by section 72 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, even though the offence was not one "committed by or in the course of the tort relied on by the plaintiffs where the proceedings were brought to prevent any apprehended infringement of intellectual property rights."

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the first defendant, Mr Peter Hubbard, from the refusal of Mr Justice Falconer on January 21 (The Times, February 1, 1983) (Ch 241) to discharge the Anton Piller order.

The plaintiffs, Universal City Studios Inc, had alleged that the defendants had been engaged in the production of counterfeit films at their premises and as a result of their inquiries had obtained undertakings satisfactory to the plaintiffs.

Mr Alastair J. D. Wilson for the

first defendant Mr John Baldwin for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE, giving the judgment of the court, said that section 72 of the 1981 Act provided for the withdrawal of privilege against incrimination of a party or spouse.

It provided that "(1) in any proceedings to which this subsection applies a person shall not be excused by reason that to do so would tend to expose that person... to proceedings for a related offence... (a) from answering any question... (b) from complying with any order made in those proceedings."

"(5) ... 'related offence', in relation to any proceedings to which subsection (1) applies means... (b) the case of proceedings to which subsection 2(c) of any offence revealed by the facts on which the plaintiff relies in those proceedings..."

The appellant had submitted that "any offence" in section 72 (5) (b) should be restricted so that it meant "any offence of the kind specified in section 72 (5) (a) and (b)."

However, it would have been the easiest thing in the world to add the necessary words of restriction to the definition in section 72 (5) (b). The draftsman expressly distinguished the extent of the privilege in the case of proceedings in section 72 (2) (a) or (b) from the extent of the privilege in the case of proceedings in section 72 (2) (c).

The appellant had submitted that there should be no difference between the privilege withdrawn in proceedings as described in section 72 (2) (a) and (b) on the one hand and section 72 (2) (c) on the other.

The answer was that Parliament evidently decided that there should be such a distinction and defined "related offence" in quite different and much wider terms in the case of proceedings to prevent future torts than in the case of proceedings in respect of past or present infringements.

The policy of Parliament to be collected from the words of the Act was that only where there was a risk of further damage to a plaintiff that a defendant was denied the right to claim privilege in respect of self incrimination for offences not committed by or in the course of or in connection with the alleged infringement.

Having decided to dismiss the appeal, it was unnecessary for the court to decide whether Mr Justice

Court of Appeal

Jury direction on intent in murder trials

Regina v Moloney (Alastair Baden)
Although in most murder cases it was sufficient, with regard to *mens rea*, merely to direct the jury that the prosecution must prove intent to kill or to do really serious bodily harm, there were cases, not limited to those where the deceased was someone other than the intended victim, where the circumstances made it not only appropriate but essential to give the direction in *DDP v Hyam* ([1975] AC 55, 79), to the effect that it was sufficient for the prosecution to prove that the defendant foresaw a serious risk of death or really serious bodily harm resulting from his deliberate act.

Further, it was clear from *R v Latimer* ([1975] 62 Cr App R 53) and from *R v Lee (Bruce)* (unreported, December 9, 1983) that the Court of Appeal could not receive evidence under section 23 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 unless it was evidence which would itself be admissible at a trial.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Nolan) so held on December 16, refusing an application by Mr Alastair Baden for leave to appeal against his conviction at Birmingham Crown Court, September 17, 1982, for the murder of his step-father.

Shipyard strike called for January

David Felton
Labour Correspondent

The shipbuilding unions decided last night to proceed with an all-out national strike from January 6.

Attempts to avert the strike broke down yesterday after British Shipbuilders said that they were only prepared to clarify the existing pay offer and would not negotiate under duress.

In an exchange of letters, British Shipbuilders also told the 17 unions in the industry that it was not prepared to make "significant movement" in its 10-point survival package.

The strike of all 56,000 shipyard workers has been called to protest at the productivity changes which BS want. The management has offered a rise of £7 a week in return for agreement on changes in long-established working practices.

The union's determined reaffirmation of the strike threat came as controversy raged over the future of the Scott Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde, which faces closure after the cancellation of a £86m order for an oil rig for Britoil.

Union leaders said that a meeting was to be held with British Shipbuilders in the new year to discuss the Scott Lithgow situation but that would be separate from any developments on a national strike.

In a telex to British Shipbuilders yesterday, the unions asked for a urgent response to the "clear indication" of work-cuts views that the productivity proposals were unacceptable.

The largest union, the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union held a ballot of its 20,000-plus members which showed that 62 per cent supported a national strike.

Doubts were being raised last night over whether the union needs a two-thirds majority in support before action can be taken. Mr Jim Murray, the union's chief negotiator, said that the union's executive could overrule that portion of the rule book.

British Shipbuilders said that the strike threat had affected customers and damaged work prospects. "A strike will be even more harmful."

Senior officials of the 17 unions said that consultation exercises with members showed a clear majority in favour of a national strike.

Gandhi's jet-set Rasputin runs into trouble

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi



Eight killed in French base bomb attack

Continued from page 1
Israeli bombings although the anonymous caller who telephoned the Voice of Lebanon radio station afterwards claimed a hitherto unheard of organization, called the Black Hand, was responsible.

● JERUSALEM: Both Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, his hawkish Defence Minister, yesterday delivered forthright warnings that Israeli attacks against what were termed terrorist targets in Lebanon and elsewhere would continue (Christopher Walker writes).

Addressing the Knesset only hours after the Israeli jet-bombardment, Mr Arens

pledged to keep up attacks inside Syrian-held territory if terrorist violence against Israel did not cease.

"We shall not let the terrorists establish themselves in the Chouf region which we have evacuated. We shall continue to demand that the Druze evacuate them from the region."

Responding to opposition motions critical of the Government's handling of the PLO evacuation from Tripoli, northern Lebanon, which one deputy argued had given Mr Yasser Arafat a victory, Mr Arens replied that Israel had been capable of preventing the exit of the PLO, but had decided against doing so to avoid a confrontation with the West.



Worldly man of God: Swami Dharendra Bramachari in his Delhi office recently (above, left) and with Mrs Gandhi in happier times.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Yeovil's liberator meets only yawns

Mr Paddy Ashdown, who won the Conservative-held seat of Yeovil for the Liberals at the last general election, yesterday introduced that jewel in the crown of many a Liberal Assembly discussion document: a Bill providing for the establishment of regional assemblies in England.

Even whole Liberal Assemblies have been known to enter a coma after a few minutes of this subject, with only those speaking, or about to speak, remaining upright. But there is no denying the fanaticism or the minority who are excited by the astounding tedious cause. At such times one thinks instinctively of Mr Roy Jenkins - his declining years blighted by his being allied with people capable of feeling passion about regional assemblies. So it was interesting to see yesterday how Mr Ashdown would overcome widespread consumer resistance. He was genuinely excited and idealistic about the issue. That, from the point of view of his Conservative and Labour audience, made him insufferable.

"We see ourselves as members of a liberation movement," he peeped, apropos of the Liberal Party or possibly just of Yeovil Liberal Party. From Vietnam onwards, experience has taught many of us to be on our guard against bodies calling themselves Liberation Movement was not just the patriotic group of workers, peasants and intellectuals seeking agrarian reform that its apologetes in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* had all along claimed it to be. It was quite simply a Liberal front.

After years of atrocities and guerrilla activity in Yeovil, sometimes operating at night out of isolated villages of the surrounding countryside, it had at the last general election overthrown the candidate of the enfeebled John Peyton regime. Peyton, of course, had been depicted in the Western elite press as a vicious right-winger, but in reality he was just another ordinary, decent toff, who had once been a Conservative Minister of Transport.

Once in control of Yeovil, the Liberals have imposed a ruthlessly moderate regime, which has begun to recast the rest of the country in the mould of the age-old dream of a Greater Liberal Somerset.

Mr Ashdown sat down to cross-party yawns, but this unity between the two main parties was not maintained for the major statement of the day: Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary for the Environment, being admirably unhypheral about nuclear leaks at Sellafield. These were the only recent leaks, about nuclear matter that had not been channelled to *The Guardian*; no Labour members were against them.

Furthermore, his act had about it a flavour of *circa* 1968, the deadly era of participation, as such it had for some of us a certain period charm. . . . the influence of the Prime Minister and the great Civil Service bureaucracy . . . genuine participative democracy . . . increasingly Parliament has arrogated to itself all the process of meaningful decision-making. What about viable feedback?

To his credit, Mr Ashdown had the courage of his clichés. Certainly he sounded dated, but he did not seem to mind. Perhaps no one had told him that his ideas were no longer fashionable, or perhaps, to his credit, he did not seem to care about that. All ideas become unfashionable in due course. In a few years' time, right-wingers will become unfashionable. Mr Ashdown has just had bad luck in his choice of era during which to be elected. Hence the confident ribaldry of the other parties at his expense yesterday. None the less, he pressed on, "I must be one of the few MPs who sought to get elected substantially to reduce the influence of Parliament and hand back to the people of Britain the power to control their own destiny," he assured us, wisely avoiding discussion of whether liberal attitudes on, inter alia, capital punishment and immigration represented the views of "the people."

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see
The British Art Show, an Arts Council touring exhibition at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, also at the Ikon Gallery, 36-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Dec 22).
Paintings and drawings by the Brotherhood of Rurals, Devizes Museum, Long Street, Wilt; Tues to Sat 11 to 1 and 2 to 3 (ends Dec 22).

Words and Images from the Lake District, Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10-5 (ends today).
"To Astonish the World" - an exhibition of decorative design over two centuries, the Wedgwood visitor centre, Barlaston, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs; Mon to Fri 9 to 5 (ends today).
The Draughtsman's Art: master drawing from the Whitehall Art Gallery, Whitehall Art Gallery, Manchester University, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Thurs 10 to 9 (ends today).

Carol Services
Festival of nine lessons and carols by the Cathedral Choir, Manchester Cathedral, Manchester, 7.30.
Carols by Candlelight, Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.
Carols, City Hall, Hull, 7.30.
Carols continuous with Mersey-side County Police, Liverpool Parish Church, Pierhead, Liverpool, 12.2.
The Cathedral Carol Service, Worcester Cathedral, Worcester, 7.30.
Town Carol Service, Wallasey Town Hall, 6.45.

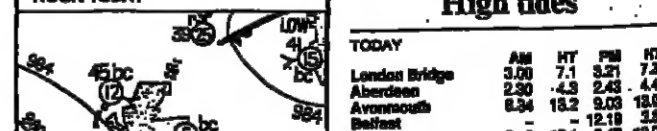
New books - paperbacks
The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Dutch Paintings, by Christopher Brown (Collins, £5.95).
French Paintings After 1820, by David Hockney (Holt, £5.50).
Popular Tales of the West Highlands, by J. F. Campbell (Widdowson, £5.50).
Shadows on the Grass, by Simon Raven (Sphere, £1.95).
Tales from the Don, by Michael Strohman (Abacus, £2.95).
The Goodbye Diaries 1898-1941, translated and edited by Fred Taylor (Sphere, £1.95).
The Journal of Anne Milne, 1898-1974 (Quartet, £4.95).
The National Gallery Children's Book, by Anthea Pappin (National Gallery, £2.95).
The Politics of Parliamentary Reform, edited by David Judge (Hainman, £5.50) PH.

Weather

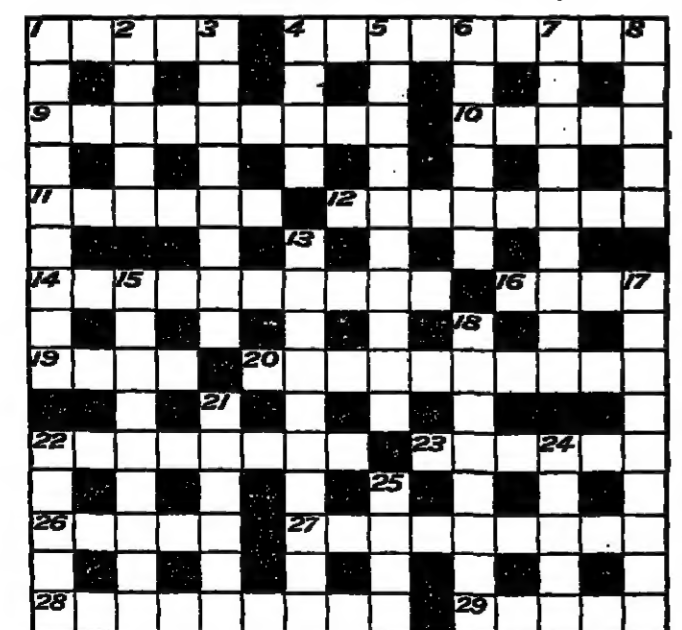
A depression will move away slowly NE from northern Scotland but a frontal trough over SW England is expected to move NE over southern and western Britain.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central N England, East Angles, E, W Midlands: Cloud thickening, outbreaks of rain. SW backing SE for a time, moderate or fresh; mid, max temp 8 or 9C (46F to 48F).
Central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Cloudy, rain, heavy at times, some drizzle developing; wind SE veering SW, fresh or strong, locally gale force for a time; max temp 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).
E, NE England, Borders: Fog patches clearing, sun; a few becoming cloudy with rain later; wind S veering SW, fresh or strong, locally gale force for a time; max temp 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).
N Wales, NW, NE England, Borders, Isle of Man: Bright intervals, cloud thickening, outbreaks of rain; wind S or SE, moderate or strong; max temp 8 or 9C (46F to 48F).
Lake District, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: A few fog patches clearing, sun; intervals becoming cloudy with rain later; wind variable light, becoming SE or S moderate or strong; max temp 8 or 9C (46F to 48F).
Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Showers dying out, sun; intervals becoming cloudy with rain later; wind S or SE, moderate or strong; max temp 8 or 9C (46F to 48F).
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, slowly dying out; wind N fresh or strong, variable light; max temp 7C or 8C (45F or 46F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: CON PASSAGE: S North Sea, Straits of Dover; Wind SW light or moderate; sea slight, English Channel (E); Wind SW light increasing fresh or strong later; sea smooth becoming rough later. SE: George's Channel; Wind SW light becoming S strong or gale; sea smooth becoming rough; sea: Wind mainly S light or moderate; sea slight.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,316



- ACROSS**
- Rosinante, for one, put on stage (5).
 - Run into one who enumerates letters (9).
 - Tris over again, being a learner at practice (9).
 - Stairly hot when workers get together (5).
 - Public performance of melody in a simple key (6).
 - Understandings of our era on right of presentation to a benefice (8).
 - Depositing cash to support railway (10).
 - A couple of pages on a plane, perhaps (4).
 - Fret, causing mental confusion (4).
 - Journalist chap takes the German fiery spirit (10).
 - Support for Rand, perhaps, in inclement weather (8).
 - Against, or in Paris towards, America (6).
 - Thickness of rope Mill found profitable (5).
 - In retirement then, a grim, upsetting experience (9).
 - Breach of faith of tutor and youth leader? About right (9).
 - Why, we hear, idle characters return (3).
- DOWN**
- Route in low water in Morocco (9).
 - Doorkeeper demanding silence in Bow (5).
 - Instructing - in rail travel? (8).
 - Midshipman commonly having no preference (4).
 - About to drink to fellow Scotsman, was he? (10).
 - Hounds put out like hunters at grass (6).
 - Follow metrical system, perhaps, in tendency to excel (9).
 - French novel for this type? The contrary, probably (5).
 - Intolerance of Gilbertian dairy-maid's introduction (10).
 - Bit zany, perhaps - one without head for this architecture (9).
 - Husband arranged dates in the agricultural area (9).
 - Fabric of type rats ruin (or mother?) (8).
 - Very cold for one of Noah's parables, say (6).
 - Sounds like a hill named long ago (5).
 - Empty place in, for example, Loughmanning church (5).
 - No oil-painting, this customer (4).

Exhibitions in progress

Landscapes by Ray Howard-Jones, Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Wales; Mon to Sat 10-4.30 (closed Sun) (ends Dec 31).
Olive Christmas Exhibition of works by Welsh artists, Welsh Arts Council Gallery, 33 Charles Street, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).
A collection for Christmas - original and rare work by English artists and craftsmen (inc. special toys); Falcon House Gallery, Swan Street, Suffolk; Tues to Sat 10.30-6, closed Mon (ends Jan 29).
Picture Derby - photographs of Derby from 1900 to 1983, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, the Strand, Derby; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Dec 30).
The Art of Craft: craftwork at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.30 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4).

Pre-Raphaelite room

Manchester City Art Gallery has reopened its famous Pre-Raphaelite Room, which has been sumptuously restored with the aid of a Victorian pattern book. The collection includes some of the best known paintings of the school, like Ford Madox Brown's *Work*, Sir John Everett Millais' *Autumn Leaves* and William Holman Hunt's *The Fighting Shepherd and the Shadow of Death*.

Jumbo crossword

The Times Jumbo Christmas crossword will appear on Saturday, December 24. Newsagents may wish to order extra supplies to ensure that regular readers can order a copy.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Christmas adjournment debates on various topics.

Anniversaries

Births: John Crome, painter, founder of the "Norwich School", Norwich, 1768; Jean Henri Fabre, entomologist, Saint Léon, France, 1823; Giacomo Puccini, Luca, Italy, 1858; Edgar Varèse, composer, Paris, 1883; Desha: George Elliot, (Mary Ann Evans), London, 1880; Richard von Krafft-Ebing, psychiatrist, Graz, Austria, 1902.

Electric boats

Viscount St Davids, who is chairman of the Electric Boat Owners Association, is anxious to encourage the use of this silent, non-polluting form of recreation, and wished to hear from conservation-minded waterside residents (including pub landlords and the like) who can supply an ordinary 15-amp power outlet not more than 50 yards from a mooring. Boat owners will pay £2 for overnight use of the mooring and re-charging, which uses only about £1 worth of electricity. Details from 15 Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London NW1 7TS. He is also pleased to show his electric boat by appointment at his canal-side home.

Stamp competition

The National Army Museum is holding a "design an Army postage stamp" competition in conjunction with its current exhibition "The British Army on stamps". The exhibition is open to young people up to 18. Prizes will be awarded for the best designs based on museum exhibits. Closing date is January 15, 1984.

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The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.69	1.59
Austria Sch	28.85	27.25
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.75
Canada \$	1.83	1.76
Denmark Kr	14.76	14.66
Finland Mk	8.69	8.29
France Fr	12.32	11.82
Germany DM	4.06	3.87
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hong Kong \$	11.36	10.76
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	2450.00	2340.00
Japan Yen	349.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.58	4.35
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94
Portugal Esc	194.00	184.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Ptas	231.00	221.00
Sweden Kr	11.98	11.38
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA \$	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	214.00	204.00

Lighting-up time

Sun rises: 8.04 am
Sun sets: 3.54 pm
Moon rises: 10.29 am
Moon sets: 6.33 pm
Last quarter: December 26.

Lighting-up time

London 4.24 pm to 7.35 am
Bristol 4.34 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 6.15 am

Lighting-up time

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Cambridge 12C (54F). Lowest day temp: London 6C (43F). Highest night temp: London 2.5C (36F). Lowest night temp: Cambridge -0.5C (31F).

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Trade rebound

Shipyard vote

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Pound saver

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